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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 195 | FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Now that he has resigned, do you think former AG Edward T. Buckingham will still return to the CNMI to face criminal charges filed against him?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Nathaly Uribe has all the papers she needs to get a work permit—something the 17-year-old daughter of a construction worker only dreamed of growing up as an illegal immigrant in the United States.

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ASIA

Regional tensions flared on the emotional anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender as activists from China and South Korea used Wednesday's occasion to press rival territorial claims, prompting Japanese authorities to arrest 14 people.

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LIFE & STYLE

Michael J. Fox is planning a return to series TV, more than a decade after he left to concentrate on fighting Parkinson's disease.

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Multiple reviews on 25-year, $190M power contract

» Acting governor requests 'full economic analysis'

» Lawmakers: If it's public debt, Legislature's approval needed

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), center, asks acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher, left, questions, while Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) looks on during a meeting between some lawmakers and CUC at the Senate chamber yesterday afternoon, regarding the questionable 25-year, $190-million power purchase agreement.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Multiple reviews, as well as requests for investigations, are being launched in connection with a 25-year power purchase agreement that has a "guaranteed price" of $190 million, at a time when the deal's major architects—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham—are thousands of miles away from the CNMI.

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Some details emerge as lawmakers grill CUC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mystery remains as to why Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed off on a 25-year, $190-million guaranteed price power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC but some new details emerged yesterday as the Senate and some House members grilled Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan Fletcher.

Fletcher told lawmakers he and other CUC personnel were aware of the plan to enter into a power purchase agreement but that stopped on or before July 10.

He said prior to that, he or CUC personnel were asked for preliminary economic and technical data.

"That's the extent of my participation… We weren't part of the discussions [with the supposed contractor]," Fletcher told the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications chaired by Sen. Juan

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Japan forces to train with US Marines on Tinian in September

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Japanese Self-Defense Force troops will train alongside U.S. Marines on Tinian in September, marking another milestone in the CNMI's military history because almost 70 years ago or during World War II, these forces engaged in heavy battles against each other on the same soil.

» Some military areas on Tinian will be closed Sept. 10-22

For months, there have been reports out of Japan that Tinian may be a future training site for Japanese forces alongside U.S. forces. Next month's schedule on Tinian confirms just that.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz announced yesterday that portions of Tinian's military areas will be closed from Sept. 10 to 22 because of live fire military exercises, while Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) separately said Japanese military personnel will also be training on island.

"The training of Japanese forces alongside U.S. Marines is something new. As you can tell, Tinian is playing a significant role in terms of military training and operations in the region," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

At least a platoon from the Japanese Self-Defense Force is expected.

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Stop on off-island travel for students mulled. PAGE 3

Local

Faris formally dismisses Fund's bankruptcy case

» **Jorgensen files TRO, injunction to stop enforcement of Fitial's executive order placing Fund under state of emergency**

» **Executive order, state of emergency being reviewed again, likely to be amended**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris on Wednesday issued an order formally dismissing the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

As this developed, two unnamed retirees represented by attorney Bruce Jorgensen filed yesterday in federal court a motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to prevent the enforcement of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's executive order declaring a state of emergency for the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund.

In a one-page order, Faris only stated that pursuant to a memorandum of decision on motions to dismiss he issued last June 13, the Fund's bankruptcy case is dismissed.

Faris

Faris' June 13 memorandum simply reiterated the discussions in his tentative decision dismissing the Fund's bankruptcy case.

Faris ruled that Fund is a "governmental unit" and not eligible for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Jorgensen and co-counsels Robert M. Hatch, Margery S. Bronster, and Stephen C. Woodruff asserted that their motion for TRO and preliminary injunction seeks to prevent Fitial from "illegally seizing the Fund and assuming dictatorial control over it."

Last June 7, Fitial issued Executive Order 2012-06 that suspends the power of the Fund's board of trustees and administrator, and transfers this executive power to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

Fitial then stated that Executive Order 2012-06 shall become effective immediately upon the U.S. District Court Bankruptcy Division's filing of its order dismissing the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

On the dismissal of the bankruptcy case, acting press secretary Teresa Kim yesterday pointed out that since there is an automatic stay for 14 days of the court's dismissal order, the executive order for reorganization of the Fund and the state of emergency declaration will not take effect until the 14 days lapses.

"At this time, the State of Emergency Declaration as well as the Executive Order for the reorganization is being reviewed once again and will likely be amended," Kim told the media in an email.

Jorgensen, Hatch, and Woodruff in the unnamed two retirees' motion filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI stated that Fitial now claims the very problem he has helped create is a "disaster emergency" giving him the power to seize the Fund and suspend the operation of all laws and regulations relating to the Fund.

The two unnamed retirees are suing Fitial and the Fund in federal court over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

Jorgensen, Hatch, and Woodruff said the governor's emergency powers are limited to true disasters, not disaster created by the governor's own actions.

The lawyers said the Fund has not been imperiled by a "disaster emergency," it has been imperiled by laws such as Public Law 15-15 signed by Fitial on June 16, 2006.

P.L. 15-15 suspended the government obligations owing to the Fund for the remainder of Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.

The lawyers said allowing the governor to seize the Fund and suspend all laws and regulations governing it will irreparably harm their clients and the class by removing the Fund and its assets from the protection of the law and courts.

In fact, the lawyers pointed out, an express purpose of the executive order is to prevent the Fund from seeking to enforce its judgment against the CNMI for failing to pay the contributions required by law.

The lawyers said their clients are likely to succeed on the merits of their claims because the governor's executive order is "blatantly illegal and threatens the very foundations of a society based on law", and the court should grant their motion for a restraining order on this basis alone.

They asserted that the executive order will cause irreparable harm because it will nullify the Superior Court proceedings and collection of the Superior Court judgment and suspend all laws relating to the Fund.

The lawyers said the public interest will be gravely harmed if Fitial is allowed to simply declare that he is not bound by the law.

"The implications are profound and potentially devastating for the Commonwealth. It is in the public interest to hold the governor to compliance with the law and for this reason the court must enjoin enforcement of Executive Order 2012-06," the lawyers added.

In a related development, the two unnamed retirees yesterday moved the federal court to lift the court's stay order of their

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AS USDOE CONSIDERS ELIMINATING 'TRAVEL' GRANT

Stop on off-island travel for students mulled

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said the CNMI may stop sending students to off-island and national academic and non-academic competitions.

This after the U.S. Department of Education said it is planning to eliminate the travel item in the consolidated grant for next fiscal year.

Thornburgh, along with Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, reported to the Board of Education's fiscal and personnel affairs committee that PSS received notification from USDOE requesting the submission of a revised consolidated grant application for FY 2013.

The consolidated grant is one of the regular grants PSS receives each year from USDOE amounting to $8.4 million for FY 2013.

The students' travel for inter-island and national competitions, along with travels of principals and PSS officials for their meetings and professional development, are being funded through this regular grant.

Thornburgh disclosed to the committee that each fiscal year, travel for students' competitions both for inter-island and national contests has a budget of $400,000. Among these competitions are mock trial, forensic leagues, congressional mock trial, math court, spelling bee, academic challenge, JROTC competitions, science fair, thespian festival, among others.

Thornburgh said that for many years, the consolidated grant has funded several school competitions from regional level to national contest. CNMI students have been victorious to these many events that brought honor to the Commonwealth.

Thornburgh disclosed that besides the "travel" item in the consolidated grant, USDOE also wants to reduce school districts' budget for promotional items in an effort to reduce the national deficit. Example of these promotional school items are T-shirts, cups, and others.

The students competition, Thornburgh said, is obviously will be the most affected area because PSS, with the current local funding, has no capability to send teams for national events without some travel allocation.

The PSS budget from the CNMI government, according to education officials, is not even enough to cover the system's personnel cost and operation. The federal grants received every year supplement the shortfall of the local budget.

Worried on the big impact of this plan of the USDOE, board members have requested Sablan and Thornburgh to seek "clarification" and guidance on the issue.

According to board member Herman T. Guerrero, the plan would only mean that PSS will rely on video and teleconferences to conduct meetings and must think of creative ways to continue send delegates to national competitions.

Compared to other school districts such as Hawaii and Alaska, Thornburgh described the impact to the CNMI as "same difficulty in a lesser degree."

Board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita, meantime, recommended that PSS seek the assistance of U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan on the matter.

Saipan Tribune learned that the matter is now under negotiation with the USDOE.

FARIS

From Page 2

lawsuit that has been in effect since January 25, 2010.

The unnamed retirees also requested the federal court to conduct an expedited hearing in their motion to allow them to lift the existing stay so they can litigate the lawsuit "in the only forum that can now protect their rights."

The District Court in its June 25, 2010 order determined that a stay was necessary in order to afford proper deference to the state court proceedings.

At the time, the Fund has a pending appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit over the federal court's order denying the Fund's motion to dismiss the unnamed retirees' lawsuit.

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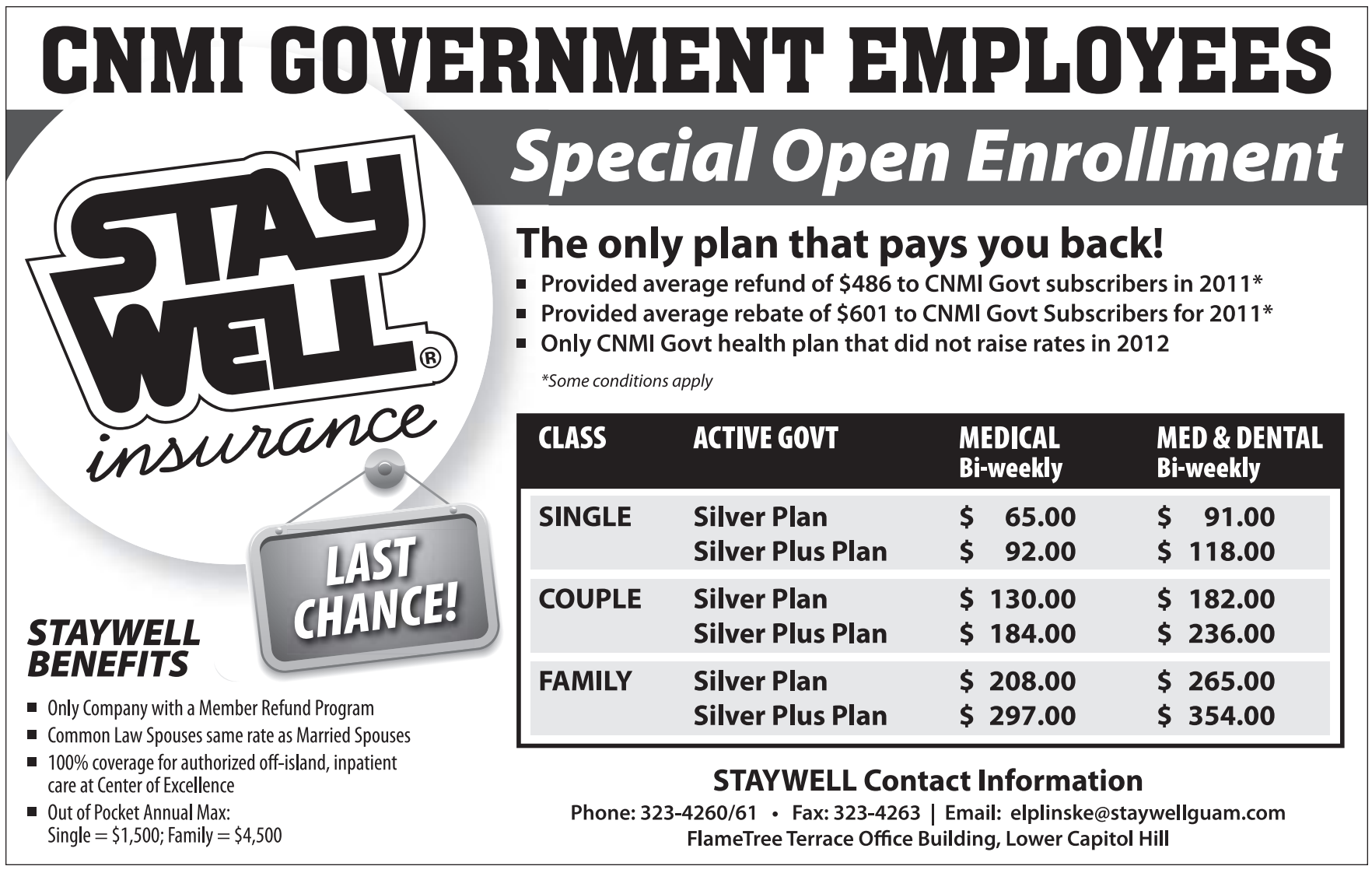
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PNG government urged to analyze effects of mining

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—A challenge has been issued to all authorities tasked with the development of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) marine resources to analyze the economic realities and contrasts of the fishing industry relative to the destructive concepts of land and seabed mining outcomes.

Manager of the Kokopo Fisheries Co-operative Association Limited in East New Britain Province Evan Laen also challenged all true indigenous administrators and politicians to do their homework on how the current mines of PNG have benefited the majority of the indigenous people affected by the side effects of such operations.

He said the current silence over the issue of the Nautilus Seabed project and its effects on marine resources had caused them to question the integrity of those who supported the experimental strategies of mining moguls who bulldozed their one-sided awareness campaigns that have no logical guarantee to validate their theories.

"We are not trading our marine resources for experimental mining operations," he said.

Mr. Laen said their pilot project had involved New Ireland Province through co-operatives of the Konoagil Local Level government and Kavieng in their initial drive to project an alternative for the experimental seabed mining and other potential mining activities.

"It is our desire to venture into the fishing industry which from our point of view is the most neglected sector in our region," he said.

He said they had targeted four main strategic areas where they would base their incentives upon.

They include assistance to set up fishing organizations leading up to the establishment of fishing co-operative societies along every coastal villages, the setting up of fisheries co-operative associations eventuating in a New Guinea Islands Fisheries Federation, securing of sustainable markets for fishing co-operatives or groups and the influential support from political and administrative authorities to make some sense of this neglected industry.

"Where fisheries is an environmental-friendly alternative to pursue, all stakeholders need to seriously consider the bad examples of mining-beneficial propaganda that never meets the expectations of those also affected and are being ignored apart from the immediate landowners of mining projects," Mr. Laen said.

JAPAN

From Page 1

Hofschneider, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said every time there is a major military training on Tinian, the island looks forward to positive economic impact as well as Tinian's role in the nation's defense needs.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Tinian's North Field was the launching pad of the two atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, putting a decisive end to World War II.

Don Farrell, CNMI historian, said September's training exercise on Tinian is part of a much larger operation taking place in Guam called Operation Valiant Shield.

Next month's training exercises on Tinian follows Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 in May, the largest military exercise the CNMI had seen in years involving some 200 U.S. military personnel led by Marine Aircraft Group-12 out of Iwakuni, Japan.

'Live fire'

The Tinian mayor said yesterday that because of live fire military exercises, the Military Exclusive Use Area on Tinian will be closed from Sept. 10 to 15.

North Field's Runway Baker will remain closed from Sept. 15 to 18.

Dela Cruz said the Military Exclusive Use Area on North Field will be closed again for live fire exercises from Sept. 18 to 22.

"Guards will be stationed at the American Memorial Circle on Broadway and the circle on 8th Avenue throughout the exercise. Your patience and understanding will be greatly appreciated," Dela Cruz said in a public announcement.

The announcement notifies tour bus operations, vehicle rentals, and the general public that they won't be able to enter the affected areas during certain dates.

Farrell said unlike the MAG-12 operations in May, there are no planned civilian interactions next month, except for perhaps a few uniformed men and women from an advance team who will stay at one of Tinian's hotels before and possibly during the operation.

Joseph Mendiola, Tinian Ports director, is coordinating access for the general public to observe the movement of the troops, said Farrell.

CUC

From Page 1

Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

But Fletcher said he was present when Fitial and Buckingham signed off on the contract on Aug. 3.

Documents obtained showed Buckingham signed the contract on Aug. 3, but there was no date when Fitial signed it. Fletcher confirmed it was also on Aug. 3. Buckingham left the CNMI on Aug. 4.

Fletcher also didn't know when or if Saipan Development LLC signed the contract at a later date.

When asked whether he knows the local representatives of Saipan Development LLC, Fletcher said he didn't know, but said weeks prior to July, he only met Don [Donald] Kurz of Keystone Shipping, and a certain "Kenneth."

Saipan Development LLC's registered agent is Keystone Shipping, which is based also out of Delaware and Pennsylvania. Keystone Shipping's chief executive officer is Donald Kurz.

Saipan Development LLC is a private limited liability company duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware.

CNMI agencies do not have records of this company.

Saipan Development LLC and the CNMI executed a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement dated March 27, 2012.

That was barely five days after Saipan Development LLC was incorporated in Delaware on March 22, 2012, based on the state's Division of Corporations records.

When pressed by lawmakers, Fletcher said he didn't think CUC should be a signatory to the contract since CUC is under the governor's direct control, when the agency was placed under a state of emergency.

CONTRACT

From Page 1

The power deal with Saipan Development LLC is among the most expensive government contracts in CNMI history, signed by Fitial and Buckingham on Aug. 3.

That was Buckingham's last day of work, a day before leaving the CNMI with armed police and ports police escorts to the airport allegedly to help shield the AG from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him.

Fitial and Buckingham shunned Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials from participation in the contract formulation and negotiations with Saipan Development LLC starting on or about July 10, acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher told lawmakers yesterday.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos asked for an independent full economic analysis on the matter.

The Office of the Attorney General is also looking into the matter.

The Public Utilities Commission was poised to conduct its own oversight, but Inos extended the emergency declaration for CUC, therefore suspending PUC's regulation of CUC.

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications is now reviewing the matter, and so will the House PUTC Committee and the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Some lawmakers are also going to ask the Office of the Public Auditor and possibly a federal agency to review or investigate what they described as a questionable sole-source contract and the circumstances leading to the agreement.

Lawmakers also said yesterday they want to put a stop to the contract implementation without a full review of the contract provisions, the circumstances leading to the governor and the former AG's decision to approve the deal, as well as a determination whether the contract is a form of public indebtedness that needs the Legislature's approval.

Inos said yesterday he has asked for an independent examination of these matters as "there seems to be considerable difference in opinion on the total costs and impact on utility rates."

The acting governor said the Commonwealth continues to examine the specific facts and circumstances of the identified power plant project. Inos saw a copy of the power purchase agreement only on Wednesday morning.

"I do not want to get into specific details at this time as we are having ongoing discussion with the parties that were involved in this project. I will have more definite information once our examination is completed," Inos said in a brief statement to the media yesterday.

Inos released the statement while Fletcher was being asked by members of the Senate Committee on PUTC chaired by Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) and other Senate and House members regarding the power contract.

Fletcher said Inos requested a "full economic analysis."

He said many of the lawmakers' questions can only be answered by CUC once that full economic analysis is completed.

Among the lawmakers' questions—will the multimillion contract result in lower utility rate for CUC customers and will it be less costly for CUC?

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim said such independent review will be conducted by a private firm. Kim and Fletcher also said the OAG is also looking into the agreement.

The Senate PUTC meeting with CUC was scheduled for 2:30pm yesterday. Initially, it was a closed-door meeting at the request of OAG, senators said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said because OAG later on decided not to participate, they opened the meeting to the public. Prior to that, Fletcher also got a go-signal from Inos about the meeting that's open to the public.

More reviews

Public Utilities Commission chair Joseph C. Guerrero, during the lawmakers' meeting with CUC's Fletcher, said PUC will have full oversight of this contract as the executive order placing CUC under a state of emergency expired on Aug. 15.

Guerrero said PUC was poised to conduct its own oversight hearing on the contract.

Hours later, the Legislature received from Inos a new executive order, No. 2012-10, again placing CUC under a state of emergency, placing CUC under the direct control of the governor.

In the Aug. 16 EO, Inos said all provisions in the Commonwealth Code and Public Law 17-34 concerning PUC regulation of CUC and its actions are "suspended under this Order." Such includes potentially, any oversight of renewable energy contracts.

The Senate PUTC Committee has started its separate review, and so will the House PUTC Committee and the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), in a separate statement, said the House will be asking the PUTC Committee, chaired by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and the House JGO Committee chaired by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) "to look into the contract" and "report back to the House as soon as possible."

"Personally, I have not seen the contract and my colleagues have not seen it. So until we review it, we cannot decide on the merits of the contract by relying solely upon what the media reports. I want to actually see the contract first—then after we review it we can form an educated opinion," Cabrera said.

Both the Senate and the House did not have prior knowledge about the power purchase agreement prior to its signing by the governor and the former attorney general.

Public debt

Of particular concern to the House speaker is the issue of whether the 25-year power purchase agreement is a form of public indebtedness that under the constitution requires the Legislature's approval.

"If the reports are accurate, that the governor and the former attorney general both signed the contract, it would appear that the full faith and credit of the CNMI would be involved. Usually, a governor signs a contract, as opposed to the agency alone, when there is a major undertaking such as a public debt," Cabrera said.

The speaker said it's one thing if CUC signed off on the contract by itself, and CUC did not pass on the debt to the ratepayers.

"However, we have not heard anything from CUC regarding this specific contract and CUC had every opportunity to tell us that a deal like this was in the works. If this power plant will be financed by the ratepayers, then any way you look at it, it is public debt and two-thirds of both the House and Senate would need to approve the deal. As a constitutional matter, the House and Senate will need to approve the contract before, not after, the deal is done," Cabrera said.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he's drafting a letter to OPA to investigate the matter.

While the power deal's "guaranteed price" is $190.8 million for 25 years, it could actually cost the CNMI way more than $200 million because taxpayers also have to pay for fuel, operations, and maintenance fee, among other things.

There's no telling yet whether the contract is now being fully executed.

The 41-page power purchase agreement grants Saipan Development LLC an "exclusive right to develop a diesel-generated electric power plant" on Saipan.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said Fitial declared a CUC emergency and using his emergency powers, "he signed us all up to pay over $200 million over the next 25 years."

"How can a project that likely won't be shovel-ready for years, be considered a solution to a so-called 'emergency' and circumvent the normal CNMI procurement process?"

Senators and House members repeated this sentiment yesterday as they asked CUC's Fletcher about the contract.

Under the PPA, CUC will pay Saipan Development LLC "300 consecutive, equal monthly installments of $636,091."

Three hundred months is equivalent to 25 years. If the monthly payment is $636,091, then the yearly payment is $7.63 million. That is equivalent to $190.8 million in 25 years.

Payment of the guaranteed price "is not subject to alteration, adjustment, setoff, counterclaim, abatement, or Force Majeure."

In addition to the guaranteed price, CUC shall pay Saipan Development LLC an operations and maintenance fee of 0.0191 per plant-produced kWh per month.

CUC shall also pay a production fee of .0153 cents per plant-produced kWh to cover the costs of lubricant oils consumables and spare parts.

Man indicted for alleged marriage fraud

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman unsealed yesterday an indictment against a man who allegedly engaged in a marriage fraud.

The indictment, which was filed on Monday, charged Zahidul Islam with one count of conspiracy to commit offenses and to defraud United States.

According to the indictment, conspiracy began in May 2006 and continued on Feb. 8, 2010. The indictment did not mention the defendant's nationality.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe stated in the indictment that on May 3, 2006, Islam and a woman were married at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

On May 31, 2006, Islam, in order to prove the woman's U.S. citizenship, caused her to submit an application for a U.S. passport at the passport office on Saipan.

On June 27, 2007, the woman signed a Form 1-130 wherein she falsely stated that she and Islam had lived together continuously since May of 2006.

On Dec. 4, 2007, Islam, in preparation for his marriage interview and to make his marriage appear legitimate, caused a CNMI certificate of ownership to be issued showing her as co-owner of a vehicle registered under his name.

On Dec. 31, 2007, Islam, in preparation for his marriage interview and to make his marriage appear legitimate, caused the woman's mother to sign an affidavit.

In the affidavit, the mother falsely attested that her daughter and her son-in-law lived together in Dandan before they got married, and after they got married they together moved to her house "where they have been living until the present time."

On Jan. 3, 2008, defendant, in preparation for his marriage interview and to make his marriage appear legitimate, applied for a life insurance policy with the woman as both an insured and a beneficiary.

On Jan. 8, 2008, Islam and the woman appeared for their marriage interview on Guam during which they falsely stated, under oath, that they resided with the woman's parents and helped pay for the utilities, and that the woman had converted to his religion.

On Jan. 8, 2008, Islam received a permanent resident card after his Form I-130 and the woman's Form I-485 were approved.

On Oct. 9, 2009, Islam, in preparation for the submission of his Form I-751 and to make his marriage appear legitimate, caused the woman's name to be added to his iConnect cellular telephone account.

On Oct. 19, 2009, Islam, in preparation for the submission of his Form I-751 and to make his marriage appear legitimate, caused an individual to sign an affidavit.

In the affidavit, the individual false stated that Islam and the woman were "currently living together as husband and wife at XXXX Pacific Towers in Tamuning, Guam."

On Oct. 20, 2009, Islam and the woman signed a Form I-751 wherein they falsely stated and represented that they lived together in Guam, the indictment alleged. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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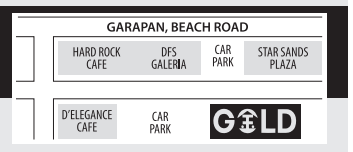

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MARKSMEN FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Five CNMI court marshals in a group photo after they were presented Thursday with certificates for completing the 40 hours marksmanship training on handguns. Also in the photo are, from left, associate judge Joseph N. Camacho, acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro, firearms instructor David M. Hosono, and deputy commissioner/range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro.

Marine sports operators file declarations to prove inability to post $62,034 bond

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five marine sports operators that are suing the Department of Public Lands over Managaha access issue filed yesterday in the Superior Court their declarations to prove their financial hardship and their inability to post the $62,034 bond that the court required.

Attorney F. Matthew Smith, counsel for the operators, said they desperately need the bond requirement to be modified in order to realize the benefits of the preliminary injunction that Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho granted.

In the operators' submission regarding financial hardship, Smith said moreover, the petitioners (operators) have already in good faith submitted a $1,861 cash bond that would protect the claimed interest of the only enjoined party, DPL.

Smith reiterated their position that Tasi Tours is not an enjoined party and therefore, no bond is required, and that even a bond was required, the court can and should require only a nominal bond.

"Nearly two months after filing for an injunction, the petitioners remain without the relief offered by the court," said the lawyer, who asked the court to either modify or eliminate the bond requirement.

Smith said the months of June, July, August, and September are the peak season for marine sports tourism.

Smith said as petitioners testified in earlier hearings, marine sports companies operate in the red for most of the year in anticipation of these summer months.

"It is during these months that they recoup their losses," he said.

Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. president Ulysses Orpiano said because the preliminary injunction is not yet in effect, the drawn out nature of the litigation is only furthering their hardships as months out of the peak season have now passed without them being able to realize income that was anticipated and planned for in order to keep the company solvent.

Orpiano said he personally contacted four insurance companies to see if they could help them post the required bond.

"None of these insurance companies could help us post such a bond," he said.

Automarine Inc. vice president Josephine Santos said their current funds are needed for or already being used to cover their monthly operating expenses, including payroll, tax, gas, insurance, maintenance, repairs, and advertising.

Santos said she contacted two insurance companies, but the companies stated they could not help her post such a bond.

Island Marine Sports Inc. vice president Maria Corazon Pangelinan stated that she also contacted two insurance companies, but that neither of the companies could help post the bond.

Pangelinan disclosed that their company is now considering the possibility of filing bankruptcy if the preliminary injunction is not immediately put into effect.

Seahorse Inc. vice president Manuel Alvarez stated that he contacted three insurance companies, but none of those companies could help him post the bond.

Alvarez said their current funds are needed for or already being used to cover their monthly operating expenses, including $7,000 in payroll, taxes, office lease payments, insurance, maintenance, DPL payments, legal fees, and repairs.

Alvarez said Seahorse also has a loan with a bank that requires a $3,000 monthly payment and depreciated assets that require regular and often expensive maintenance.

"Sales have been low since the arbitrary rule change and are only making these financial hardships harder," he added.

BSEA Inc. president William Owens said this year, preparations were increased in anticipation of the arrival of Saipan Air and that their company invested more than ever in order to be ready and to capitalize on the increase.

Owens said those increased expenditures must be recouped, but that their inability to service package tours that include Managaha and the failure of Saipan Air, their cash flow exponentially diminished.

Owens said he invested $600,000 over the 20 years BSEA has been in business.

"I would not have invested a single penny if the selling of package tours that include Managaha (all from Saipan of course), were not permitted," Owens pointed out.

In his July 19, 2012 order, Camacho granted the operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

Camacho, however, ordered the operators to post the $62,034 bond. He said the preliminary injunction shall take effect once the full bond is remitted to the court.

The operators then moved the court to modify the bond requirement either by removing the bond altogether or to only require a nominal bond.

The operators then posted $1,861.05 cash bond or 3 percent of the $62,034 that the court required them to pay in order for them to regain Managaha access while their lawsuit is pending in court.

Last week, Camacho issued an order setting a hearing on Aug. 22 at 9:30am to determine the marine sports operators' ability to pay the $62,034 bond requirement.

4 from Saipan attend socio-economic workshop in Palau

Four individuals from Saipan took part in the recently concluded and first-ever Socio-Economic Measures Workshop for the Micronesia Challenge.

Division of Environmental Quality's Fran Castro, Steven Johnson, and Kaitlin Mattos, and Coastal Resources Management's Nicole Schafer were among the 35 participants of the workshop held at Palau Community College from Aug. 7 to 9.

Facilitated by the conservation group The Nature Conservancy, the workshop's goal is to identify an initial core set of relevant and practical socio-economic indicators to be used to measure progress of the Micronesia Challenge.

Initiated in 2006, Micronesia Challenge is dedicated to effectively conserving 20 percent of terrestrial and 30 percent of marine resources across Micronesia by 2020.

In measuring the effectiveness of the goal, meetings were convened to discuss metrics to be used for land, marine, and human-related sources, said Mattos via email.

"The goal of the socio-economic measure meeting was to identify several measurements related to people and the environment that would show noticeable improvement as the Challenge was completed," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Mattos disclosed that during the workshop, seven socio-economic measures were preliminarily determined for the Micronesia Challenge.

The Micronesia Challenge Newsletter stated that the group also reviewed previous and ongoing socio-economic work in the region and decided on broad social objectives for the Micronesia Challenge in the domains of Sustainable Livelihoods, Good Governance, and Education and Capacity-building.

"From here, each jurisdiction will consult with their colleagues back home and provide feedback on the measures chosen. Then we will partner with the RARE Program to design ways to collect the data," Mattos added, referring to the U.S.-based group committed to designing conservation programs that benefit both people and nature to ensure that change is embraced and sustained. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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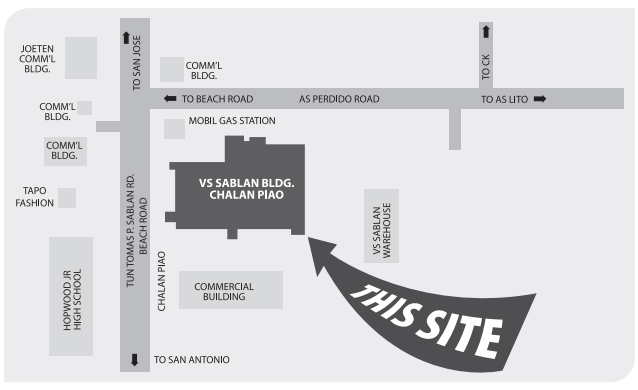

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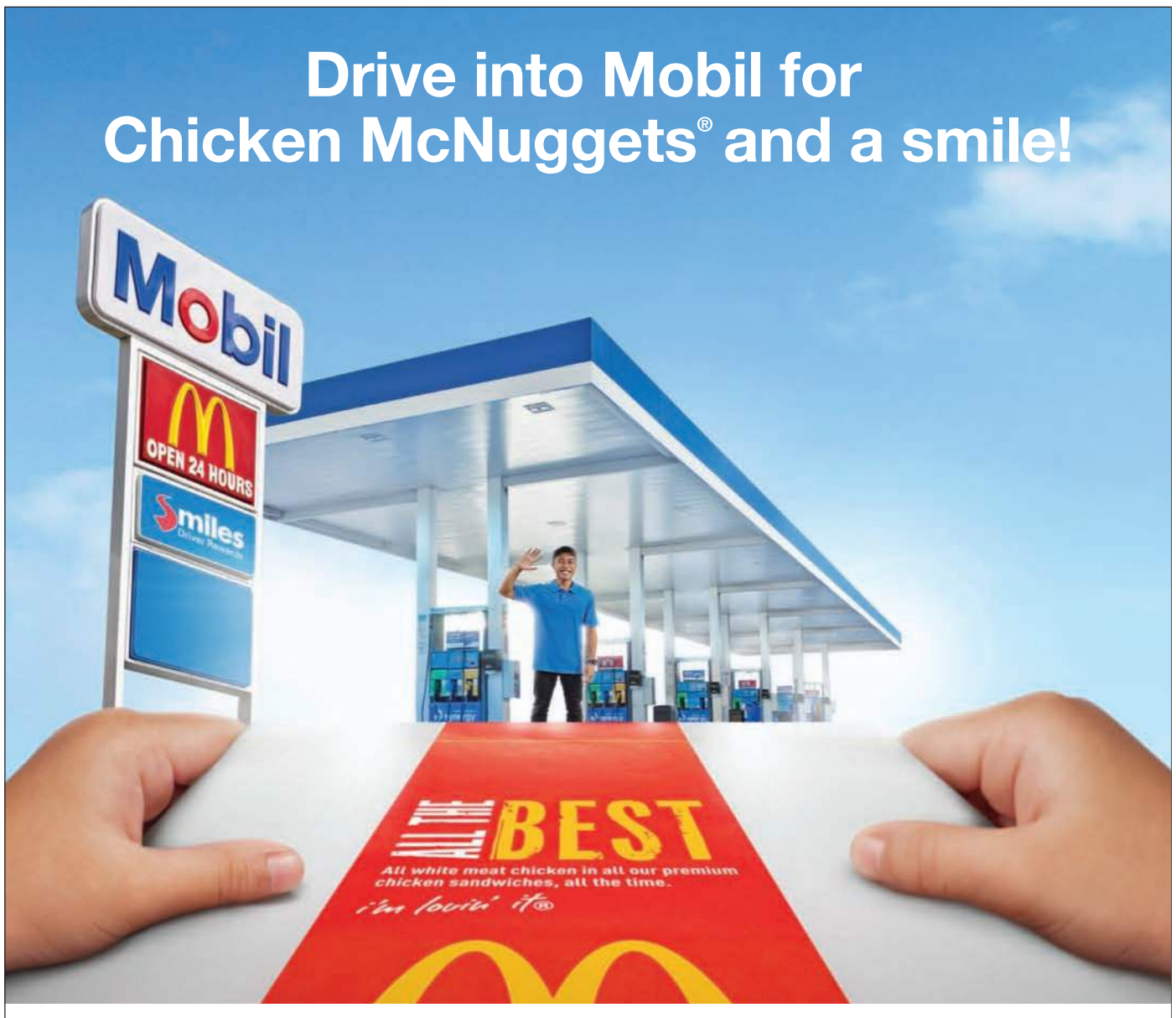

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Man'amko Talent Show set tonight

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senior citizens on Saipan are ready to take the stage at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center tonight for the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show.

The event, will feature the *man'amko* combining traditional with contemporary acts as they do more than just sing and dance for their audience.

There will also be presentations such as reading of original poetry and the highly anticipated beatbox battle, according to Aging Center program coordinator Walter Manglona.

Beatboxing is the art of producing drum beats, rhythm, and musical sounds using one's mouth, lips, tongue, and voice, and is connected with hip-hop culture.

Manglona said in an interview yesterday that Ben B., known as the "Human Beatbox," will have a face-off with Meryalen "The Spitta" Conrad who was coached and trained for this exciting showdown.

"We will have the crowd decide who wins in the beatbox battle. It's going to be exciting how a senior citizen can do it," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tickets to the event cost $10 each and ticket holders have a chance to win in the raffle draw which will be facilitated by 2012 Liberation Queen Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan and her Royal Court.

Raffle draw prizes, which were donated by the community, include gift certificates from Saipan Rainbow Photo Lab and a deluxe ticket to the Sandcastle show worth $556.

This year's Man'amko King & Queen, Siyau Muna and Pedro Dela Cruz, will also grace the fundraising event.

Besides the senior citizens, young island musicians will also be at the talent show to perform. Manglona said he will be performing with his brother Dean of Rota to sing their very own and highly popular composition, "Chamorro Superman."

Manglona added that the show will also provide community members a chance to watch Tommy Boy Atalig, Ben B., and himself as they perform live for the first time their latest single, "My Pickup Line," a copy of which has been given recently to Power 99 and has been playing it in the airwaves.

The 2012 Man'amko Talent Show, Manglona said, aims to bring all generations together in hopes of enticing the younger generation to watch the elder population do their thing.

All proceeds will go to the *man'amko* at the Aging Center and will be used for a "weekend getaway" in lieu of an off-island trip.

"The *man'amko* usually go off-island annually but due to the current economic situation, they can't. We want them to have that off-island vibe, so we thought of making them stay in a hotel where they can have a party. But that will depend on how much money they make," said Manglona.

The program coordinator said they printed close to 200 tickets to the event, and ticket sales are doing okay. "A lot of people who bought the tickets, though, said they won't be able to stop by and watch the show but they bought anyway to support the *man'amko*."

Despite lack of funds at the center, Manglona said they are always trying to improve their programs for the *man'amko*, with the support of Aging director Rose Mondala.

"Our main goal at the Aging Center is try to make the *man'amko*'s golden years wonderful, make them happy and enjoy the remaining years of their lives," he added.

Manglona urged the community to support the senior citizens by watching the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show.

"We encourage the younger generations to come in and enjoy the event," he said.

Those who don't have tickets may purchase them at the venue. Doors will open at 7pm and the show will start at 8pm. For more information, call 233-1320 or 21.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ben B., also known as "Human Beatbox," faces off with Meryalen "The Spitta" Conrad as other *man'amko* try to break the showdown. All of them will be performing at the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show at 8pm tonight at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 17, 1999

Teno: No to 5-year stay limit

The proponent of the controversial initiative seeking a five-year stay limit on alien workers on the island is insistent, vowing to lobby support from voters if members of the Legislature reject its inclusion in the ballots during the November midterm elections. But Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez is facing tough opposition from the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, who yesterday finally spoke against his proposal. Tenorio said the Commonwealth still needs labor pool from Asian countries to fill in jobs in the private sector, citing the limited availability of local manpower to address the employment needs of companies on the island.

FAA grants $9.3 million for Tinian runway expansion

The Federal Aviation Administration has granted a total of $9.3 million in assistance for the construction of a new runway on the island-municipality of Tinian. According to Carlos H. Salas, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, this brings to $12.8 million the total amount of money now available for the project. "We are very appreciative of their assistance and perhaps, additional funds may become available in the near future," said Salas. CPA management and consultants are now developing a draft bid documents for the project, which may be released before the end of the year.

Aug. 17, 2001

Tie-up urged to enforce fishing ban

No boats to enforce marine conservation laws? Why not use the boats of the Department of Public Safety? This was the contention of Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan, who said that complaints by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources that they have no boats can be addressed by linking up the department with the DPS, which has these equipment. To facilitate the link-up, Pangelinan sought the help of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in a letter, a copy of which was furnished to the Saipan Tribune. According to Pangelinan, the DLNR has been having problems enforcing the ban on fishing in marine sanctuaries such as the Bird Island and Forbidden Island, and the no-fishing zone around the Managaha Island.

'NMI needs strong aggressive governor'

As the Tenorio Administration nears the end of its term, the CNMI now more than ever needs a strong and aggressive governor who will not relent in defending the Commonwealth even if the Federal Government continues with its indifferent attitude towards the US insular areas. This came from House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial who said it is critical that voters in the upcoming general elections vote someone who can make people in Washington DC listen, otherwise, the CNMI will continue to be "the least of Washington's priorities." "Now more than ever, we need the best we can have," said Fitial. "The situation in DC. tells us we can't afford to have complacent leaders, lest we become more and more insignificant to the federal government."

Aug. 17, 2002

House passes beautification tax

The House of Representatives passed yesterday the measure that would impose a .34-percent tax on all consumer products entering the CNMI to raise funds for the government's solid waste management activities. Lawmakers clarified, though, that this ad valorem tax, to be known hence as the Environmental Beautification Tax, would not apply to food items, medicines, and goods, products and materials that are intended for personal consumption or use. House Bill 13-171 saw passage at the lower chamber on a 16-1 vote, with Rep. Oscar Babauta as the lone dissenting vote.

Program controls feral cat population

There are several programs supported through funding by the Pet Assistance and Welfare Service. One program got its initial start at the Northern Marianas College: the PAWS Catch and Release Program. This program successfully controls the feral cat population, does away with unwanted kittens, and decreases the number of wandering "toms" in a specific location; in this case, the NMC campus. Feral cats are humanely trapped, brought to the Paradise Island Animal Hospital for spaying or neutering, and then, after a short recovery, released back into the colony. So an area still has "mousers" but now, they are more likely to stay healthy, live longer, and not overpopulate the campus. The Catch and Release Pilot Program began in the NMC campus in May, and successfully completed in just a few months. Through the efforts of PAWS volunteers, 15 feral cats were trapped, leaving only three kittens that will be spayed later when they are more mature.

Jonathon N. Aguon and
Lonny Ann DLR. Aguon
P.O. Box 8006 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 788-1685

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION FOR: SHANIA JEAN DELOS REYES AGUON Minor Child by JONATHON NORITA AGUON LONNY ANN DLR. AGUON Petitioners	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption for the above-named minor child by Jonathon N. and Lonny Ann DLR. Aguon, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Adoption will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, on the 17th day of September, 2012 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff, -v- DANIEL JOSEPH M. CABRERA and MAGDALENA S. CABRERA, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0054 EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 I 180, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 02, the original of which was recorded March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and (b) Tract No. 225840-H, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff, -v- DONALD C. CAMACHO, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458 SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Zina Camacho Nekaifes
P.O. Box 503453
Saipan, MP 96950

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ZINA CAMACHO NEKAIFES AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF TEISHA HELENA C. EFRAIM, HECTOR JR. C. EFRAIM, ZARED DAVID ZAVIER C. NAKAIFES, DAVIN ZACHARY C. NEKAIFES AND ZAYDEN DARREN C. NEKAIFES. Minor Children by ZINA CAMACHO NEKAIFES Petitioner.	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0355 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Zina Camacho Nekaifes Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 30th day of August, 2012 at 10:30am or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

Implementation of hospital's new revenue cycle management stalled

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that funding constraints has delayed the implementation of the new revenue cycle management model that was identified to beef up the Commonwealth Health Center's collections.

It was in May this year when the model was conceptualized and adopted by the board following the termination of International Consulting Services' contract which was supposed to boost revenues at the public hospital.

Under the new revenue cycle management model, the corporation has to identify and hire a revenue cycle administrator who will directly oversee the functions of four important major sections: patient financial services, billings, collections, and medical records.

This administrator will directly report to the CEO and has direct link to the hospital's chief financial officer. To make this plan effective, 23 posts have to be filled.

Torres admitted that due to lack of budget, hiring for these positions have been stalled and the corporation is only relying on a few onboard personnel whom he described is "inadequate."

"In order for us to collect money, we need people onboard to do the job. We need more billers and coders to make this model work. But without funding to support this [hiring], I don't think we can accomplish that goal [to increase collections]," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the corporation had transferred a few staff from other units to help in the new department.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta, in an early interview with *Saipan Tribune*, described the billings and collection department as the heart and soul of the hospital. He emphasized the need for the corporation to take this department "very seriously" because it is critically tied in every function, operation, and survival of the CHC.

He earlier said that it is the goal of the new model to improve the revenue management through proper pricing, timely data entry of billings, electronic submission of claims, and payment postings. The corporation targets to implement this new model as soon as it possible in recognizing the "crisis" at the public hospital.

CHC is declared in a state of emergency again due to the ongoing challenges in the hospital. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Ex-convict gets 1 year in jail for 'ice' possession

An ex-convict who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice" was slapped with a one-year jail sentence.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered defendant Luis Cruz Cepeda to serve the jail term day to day and not subject to parole.

Cepeda, 48, was given credit for three days he already served in jail. He was ordered to start serving the sentence on or before Aug. 20, 2012 at 10am.

Wiseman required the defendant to pay a $2,000 fine and $25 court assessment fee.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Cepeda with trafficking of controlled substance and possession of controlled substance. The defendant signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance.

As part of the plea bargain, the government dismissed the remaining charge.

According to the plea deal, on Dec. 30, 2011 on Tinian, Cepeda intentionally possessed crystal methamphetamine.

Drug Enforcement Task Force detective Steven Castro stated in his report that they were able to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Cepeda using a "cooperating source" at his farm on Tinian.

The prosecution noted that police arrested Cepeda 12 times in the past for various criminal offenses. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 195

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

Obama vs Romney on Medicare

Until this week, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney had sought to make the election a referendum on just one thing: President Obama's handling of the economy. But by teaming up with Rep. Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), the architect of the House GOP's plan for cutting spending, Romney made a campaign issue out of one of the government's biggest programs, Medicare. Sure enough, the attacks on Ryan's proposal to transform Medicare from insurance into premium subsidies began within minutes after Romney announced Ryan as his running mate.

Both Romney and Obama are seeking major changes to Medicare to rein in its runaway costs, which threaten to consume 20% of federal revenues by 2022. So when they promise to "preserve and protect" Medicare, as Romney did in Florida on Monday, they're talking about the idea of Medicare, not the program as it looks today. Significantly, both Obama and Ryan have called for holding Medicare spending to the same rate of growth in future years. The difference—and it's significant—is in how they would meet that target.

The challenge for Medicare is twofold. Thanks to the baby boom and advances in medicine, Medicare beneficiaries are growing in number and longevity. At the same time, medical costs have been rising far faster than inflation. The recession slowed the rate of increase somewhat, but the relief is likely to be temporary.

Obama's strategy for slowing the growth of Medicare spending revolves around the 2010 healthcare reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The measure includes numerous provisions to promote more efficient, higher-quality care, including a new federal center to spur innovation in healthcare. It imposes new penalties for hospitals whose patients acquire infections, and launches a host of pilot projects aimed at giving Medicare doctors more financial incentive to keep patients healthy. As a fail-safe mechanism, it also creates a panel of experts that would recommend legislative changes in the program each year if costs grew more than the gross domestic product plus 1%. Those recommendations will automatically become law unless Congress adopts an alternative that is just as effective at controlling costs.

Critics latched onto the Independent Payment Advisory Board as a rationing "death panel," despite the law's explicit prohibitions on the board making proposals that would ration care, reduce benefits, decrease eligibility or raise out-of-pocket costs for physician and hospital care. Instead, the main options available to the board would be to reduce payments to doctors and, eventually, other healthcare providers, or to find ways to make Medicare more efficient.

In his budget proposal this year, Obama sought to slow the growth of Medicare even further by having the board recommend changes if the program's costs grew by more than GDP plus 0.5%. That's a huge vote of confidence in the ability of the healthcare law's pilot projects and other reforms to change Medicare, and it's not clear how realistic those expectations are—or how much savings the board could reasonably be expected to achieve.

Romney's Medicare plan makes a bigger leap of faith. He has said he would waive as much of the 2010 law as he could through his authority as president, and push Congress to repeal the rest. In its place, he would seek a premium-support system like the one Ryan proposed for those becoming eligible for

See OBAMA on next page

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A SERIOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY?...
...WHEN HE REMOVES THAT SILENCER HE GOT FROM THE NRA...
ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING
CONGRESS
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Uzbekistan deserves better

By SANJAR UMAROV
Los Angeles Times

Sanjar Umarov, a former political prisoner, physicist and businessman, is the leader of the Sunshine Uzbekistan movement. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Not long after I spoke out against a massacre of mostly peaceful protesters in Uzbekistan in 2005, I was arrested by government security services and taken away. I was drugged, beaten, falsely accused of directing the uprising, charged with financial crimes and sentenced to 14 { years in prison. There I was put to work in a brick factory, and my health deteriorated.

During the brutally cold January of 2008, as a punishment for political prisoners, three other inmates and I were put for five freezing days in the "monkey cage"—an unheated, open-air cell—wearing only T-shirts and pants. We survived by lying back to back and moving continuously. Afterward, I was near death.

In late 2008, when my wife, Indira, was allowed to see me for the first time in three years, I was frail and incoherent, my body scarred from continuous torture. I was so weak I could barely recognize her.

Finally, efforts by human rights groups and diplomats made Uzbek authorities realize that I was more trouble to them dead than alive. I was freed in late 2009 and received asylum in the United States, where I now live. I was lucky, but thousands of other prisoners are tortured and abused by Uzbek police and prison guards. Millions more in my country lack even the most basic rights and live in constant fear of their government.

These days, though, if Uzbekistan is in the news, it is as a side note to the discussion about withdrawing U.S. troops from Afghanistan in 2014. Policymakers speak of its strategic importance to the United States. Indeed, the so-called northern distribution network—a transit corridor that runs through Uzbekistan—is the route used to move more than 50 percent of the supplies from Central Asian ports to Afghanistan for the NATO troops.

As the 2014 troop withdrawal approaches, the Obama administration is focused on securing the agreement of Islam Karimov, my country's authoritarian president, to allow thousands of military vehicles, containers and other equipment to move out through Uzbek territory. In Uzbekistan, where no political opposition or dissent of any kind is tolerated and the president has ruled for more than 22 years with an iron fist, only Karimov's approval is needed.

In January, in an effort to move closer to such an agreement, the Obama administration successfully lobbied Congress to waive prohibitions on the sale of military equipment to Karimov's government, a ban put in place in 2004 to respond to Uzbekistan's atrocious human rights record.

U.S. officials have at times publicly called the Uzbek government to account over its abuses. But Karimov is getting mixed messages. I know my government: Lifting human rights restrictions at a time when activists and independent journalists are in jail, media are censored, civil society organizations are kept from operating and forced child labor is used on a massive scale is not the way to convince Karimov you're serious about human rights.

This week, top-level U.S. diplomats will sit down with Karimov in Tashkent and seek to walk a fine line between maintaining transit routes out of Afghanistan and expressing support for democratic principles. The thing about fine lines, though, is that they often don't exist. Washington needs to insist on specific and measurable steps to improve human rights—such as the immediate release of rights activists, journalists and opposition figures, and allowing civil society groups to operate in Uzbekistan—and be prepared to impose tough consequences if those conditions aren't met.

On May 13, 2005, when I spoke out against a crackdown in the eastern city of Andijon, hundreds of unarmed civilians were shot and killed by government troops. Their deaths and the torture I and others endured for years because we called for peaceful, political reforms revealed the darker, uglier reality about Uzbekistan. The movement I founded before my imprisonment, Sunshine Uzbekistan, called for accountability, reforms to our rigidly authoritarian political system and an open dialogue between the Uzbek state and the population. We are still working toward those goals.

The events of the Arab Spring remind me that one day—soon, we hope—a change will come to my country. U.S. officials in Tashkent this week should make sure that when that day comes, my countrymen will see them as defending Uzbek human rights and not spending all their time seeking to appease the man who has oppressed them for so long.

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A prescription for chocolate

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at Tropical Ed.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Need a respite from Saipan's economic pity party? Well, here's some good news: Eating chocolate might be good for you.

But, then again, it might not be good for you. But let's look at the happy side of things, if only to rationalize what we want to do anyway. A BBC news article, dated Aug. 15, says: "Dark chocolate 'may lower blood pressure.'"

As it turns out, chocolate rates quite a bit of coverage. I looked at similar articles, also from BBC news, which all refer to various studies. For example:

- March 26, 2012: "Chocolate 'may help keep people slim.'"
- Aug. 30, 2011: "Chocolate may protect the brain and heart."
- March 22, 2005: "Chocolate 'has health benefits'."
- Hey, it sounds good to me. We can be slim, brainy, heart-healthy people.
- But on the other hand, we have these headlines, also from the BBC:
- April 27, 2010: "Chocolate lovers 'are more depressive,' say experts."
- Dec. 24, 2007: "Dark chocolate 'not so healthy'."

Yikes. Well, if I see a depressed, unhealthy person, I'll give them a box of chocolates to cheer them up. It's the least I can do.

The data might be a bit inconclusive, but we can surely say that the BBC is on the case. And that makes sense, since the British know a thing or two about chocolate. In fact, they know a thing or two about confections in general. They do like their sweets.

The famous Cadbury brand, for example, got its start in England in 1824.

Some purist will surely note that chocolate isn't sweet on its own. But most people understand that it's typically mixed with sugar, so chocolate, as commonly consumed, is regarded as a sweet by anyone I know.

If you like chocolate, then you'll really savor the One Golden Ticket website. It has reviews of various chocolate products from true aficionados, and it also lists some data about national chocolate consumption. And, holy smokes, as the data shows, some people, especially in Europe, scarf a whole lot of chocolate.

Going from 2008 figures, the top nation in per-person chocolate consumption was Germany, at 25.1 lbs per year. Then came Switzerland at 23.7 lbs per year, and then the UK at 22.7 lbs per year.

That 22.7 lbs comes to the equivalent of 103 candy bars per year, based on a 100-gram bar. So that's two chocolate bars per person, per week, on average, in the UK.

Yearly consumption in the U.S., by contrast, was reported at 11.2 lbs, which amounts to about one bar per week. The only Asian nation I saw listed was Japan, at 4.7 pounds, or about one-half bar per week.

Of course, you can't ponder Asian markets without thinking about China's growing economy. The chocolate realm is no exception. Somebody wrote a book about it. Chocolate Fortunes: The Battle for the Hearts, Minds, and Wallets of China's Consumers, published in 2009, was written by Lawrence Allen, an executive who helped pioneer the Chinese chocolate market. I haven't read the book, but it looks interesting.

Chocolate is ubiquitous in Saipan, of course, being sold everywhere from little shops to big grocery stores to tourism boutiques in gift boxes. But I don't know how Saipan's consumption levels stack up against other places. After all, a tropical climate isn't exactly easy on chocolate.

But, paradoxically, the tropics are where chocolate comes from in the first place. The underlying commodity, the cocoa bean, comes from tropical trees, and the top producers are Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Brazil.

Cocoa is traded on futures markets, and, indeed, Jim Rogers, the commodities guru, used cocoa as an example for various trading scenarios in his book Hot Commodities. That's a great book to begin with, so having a sweet-tooth angle in there just makes it even better. Perhaps this explains my otherwise inexplicable urges for Hershey bars while studying for my "Series 3" Commodities Futures exam.

Overall, then, that humble candy bar that's melting in your car right now has links to a global economy, big business, high finance, British tradition, and, apparently, a lot of scientific studies about health. But let's boil it down to a more simple and practical level: If you want to chomp on some chocolate, it's an easy thing to rationalize, at least until the next study comes out.

So, eat up! After all, even pity parties should serve food.

'On such a debt-filled day'

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

A strange deluge came cascading down Capital Hill. It's called "debts" and "deficit" spending. We have more than our share of the former while we begin regrouping to pile up more debts shortly via pension obligation bond and the "surprise" Delaware sole source contract.

In the interim, we've emailed the Golden State to make room for the NMI to join the choir sing, "California Dreamin' on such a debt-filled day."

It's demagoguery, not leadership, a perfect package of evasive quick fix set to rein-in explosive debts that will annihilate the future of our children. We'd be drowning them in the sea of financial catastrophe, fiscal calamity, and paralysis. What legacy!

Unfortunately, the issue is muddled and laced in abstraction. In other words, it won't be perceived clearly by ordinary citizens as fiscally disastrous unless translated into simple and insightful layman's term. But for now it's an initiative that falls short of lasting solution to an insolvent fund.

The guys had to do something: Would saddle posterity with immense debts shortly. Interesting though how politicians always tell us to do the wrong things for what they say are the right reasons. But isn't this an issue equally of conscience and values? Are we not supposed to guard against bankrupting our children?

Legislators should have reviewed whether "discretionary" policy is better than a "set of rules" governing the parameters how the NMI should approach this issue. They didn't and end up embracing a bad decision that would only prolong and intensify mounting debts.

Now, voters would be asked to consider a mechanism that would enable the local government to use pension obligation bond (loan) to pay off the current debt of some $332 million. The mounting sorry fiscal episode reveals an historical lesson: Career politicians weaken government accountability and breed hubris. It's difficult changing their ways stuck in political rigor mortis.

In boom times we splurged raising pay and assorted benefits mindless of future costs. In a heavy economic downturn (meltdown), funds for the central government collapsed just as the bills came due. It now owes the Fund $332 million!

Simultaneously, its fiscal calamity is such that it isn't equipped with the revenue streams to pay what it owes, what it will continue to incur in debts while fanning the fire of total financial calamity. But legislators aren't helping any. It's a dystopia—meaning, where nothing works—and who knows what lies ahead as more folks are forced into the miserable life of "Life in NAP" and other humiliating and debilitating conditions.

Dissecting the debt

For the sake of discussion, let's assume that leadership succeeded in securing some $300 million in pension obligation bond to pay off debts with the Fund of some $320 million. Let's also assume that under the debt service agreement we must pay some $30 million annually for the next 20 years.

It means paying the combined interest and principal on the loan of about $600 million in addition to the original loan of $300 million for a total of $900 million over a 20-year period. You divide the total against a population of 56,000 people and it pans out to fees for every child, man, and woman of not less than $16,071 per year on this loan alone for, yes, 20 years. This fee doesn't include taxes under the current system.

Pension firms would demand something like 20 percent in interest given the volatility of our financial posture—as crispy as our marshland reed'snapping and crumbling to pieces when it's dry. What would the interest be?

Now, does the NMI have the financial wherewithal to pay off its debt service over a twenty-year period? Have we taken an ocular review of losses in revenue in recent past, its concurrent impact versus mounting obligations, and contraction of the local population against who have fled a listless economy? What do you have on our radar that says otherwise over issues we've failed to critically review as listed above?

What if some 20-30 years from now the Fund goes belly up once more? Would our debt-strapped children have the financial wherewithal to cover for a mess committed by their elders who exited the issue under the quiet umbrella of convenience? This doesn't go too far in ascertaining a future for them, right?

■ ■ ■

Caveat: The current debts, deficit spending plus a newly signed secretive contract on diesel-powered generation plant of $190.8 million would result in the following: 1. Consumers would forcibly carry the burden of the new CUC debt; 2. More of private industries would put on shutters given the prohibitive cost of doing business in the NMI. It would effectively clip the NMI's ability to pay for current and future debts of over a billion dollars. Mind-boggling the audacity to impose more hardship right smack in the midst of a fiscal ship that just turned belly up.

■ ■ ■

Partial shutdown at CHC

Per chance, I happened upon a news flash of Outpatient Department at CHC shutting down until further notice. It's the victim of fiscal calamity engulfing the entire archipelago.

It's mind-boggling how this administration knowingly denied CHC sufficient seed funding for operations. Experience has it that it needed some $40 million. It basically gave CHC a piece of bone of some $5 million. It's a tale how it ruthlessly places the health and well being of our people at Death Cliff. The Legislature alluded to the dire need to cut expenses at the hospital trying to wash off its hands. No worries! We can read, listen, comprehend, and analyze without hooked on phonics you guys failed from the outset.

If both branches purposely shirked their fiduciary responsibility on healthcare by shoving off the basic seed funds the hospital needs for purposes of transition, it (CHC) begins to sputter and you can't blame the CEO, doctors and nurses for a monstrosity, a creature of failed leadership. Is the use of common sense or principle-based reasoning that difficult for people at the helm? Do any of you have any sense of Christian values? Why beat down against the innocent you've failed to represent in straightforward fashion in our governmental institutions?

What gall trashing the needs even of critical patients. Would you do that if the critical patient were your spouse, children, mother, and father? Appalling! Isn't healthcare one of three essential services in the NMI other than education and public safety? That you're suffering from political rigor mortis isn't a reason to trash the health of the general public.

OBAMA

From Page 10

Medicare in 2022 and beyond. Private insurers would compete with Medicare in a new marketplace, or exchange, with each offering coverage roughly equivalent to what Medicare offers. Instead of offering seniors Medicare coverage, the government would provide an insurance subsidy equal to the second-least-expensive offering in the exchange. Seniors who didn't want that particular coverage could use the subsidy to buy the less expensive insurance and keep the change, or sign up for more expensive coverage and pay the difference out of pocket.

This approach would put pressure on insurers to hold down costs. But they've had little luck doing so to date, in part because they don't have the leverage to force local hospitals and medical groups to curb their appetite for higher rates. Romney doesn't say what he'd do if insurers can't keep rates down. And neither he nor Ryan has made clear what they would do to contain Medicare costs if competition among insurers didn't do the trick.

No matter how it's structured, Medicare won't survive unless it finds a way to slow the rising cost of caring for elderly Americans. Romney argues that the program's inefficiencies are a product of the open-ended supply of federal dollars, a problem that could be solved by forcing insurers to compete for Medicare customers. That's part of the answer, but not the whole one. It's even more important to realign the industry's incentives toward wellness instead of treatment, to promote efficiency and innovation in care, and to encourage more coordination among providers. The 2010 law pushes the healthcare industry down those paths, which is why it's an important part of Medicare's future. For all the rhetoric coming out of the Obama campaign, the problem with Romney's plan isn't that he would "end Medicare as we know it." It's that he isn't backing the right changes.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

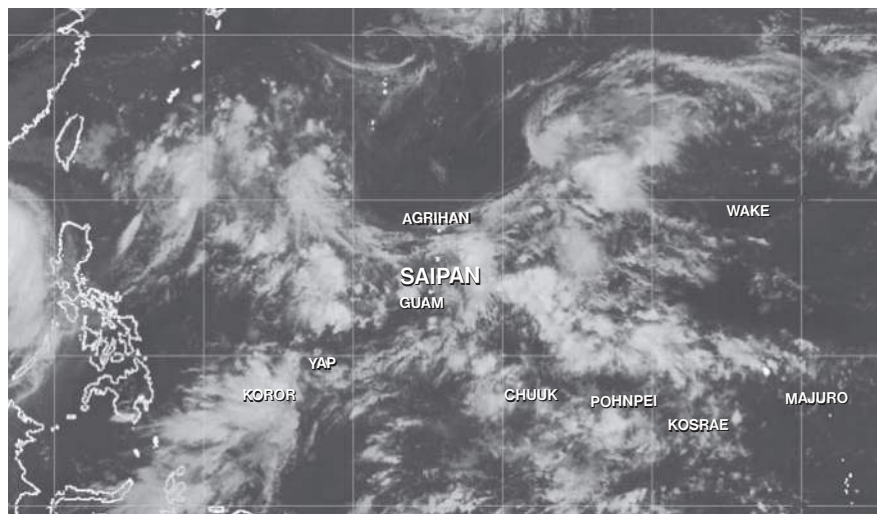
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲83	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Sunny	▲85	▼65
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲54	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲90	▼69
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼67
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼74
Salem	Sunny	▲102	▼62
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼56
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-trough curves southeastward from 23N132E to 20N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring southwest of IWO to island south of the upper-trough within 225 miles of a line from 24N130E to 15N141E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 12N and 18N from 145E to 150E. A surface trough extends southward from 10N135E to a weak circulation centered at 5N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring over Koror around the trough and west of the circulation center between the equator and 10N from 130E to 137E. A surface trough extends northeast to west of Minami Tori Shima from 10N155E to beyond 25N at 153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 9N and 24N from 150E to 160E. Scattered showers are also found north of Kwajelein in converging winds east of the surface trough between 9N and 12N from 160E to 170E. A surface trough runs from 2N151E over Chuuk to 11N147E. Another surface trough runs from east of Pohnpei at 5N153E to 7N157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
7:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:21 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	7:09 AM	7:35 PM
Monday	8:04 AM	8:19 PM
Tuesday	9:01 AM	9:05 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

'Chamorro speakers have incremental comprehension of the language'

An experiment conducted as part of a research project on the Chamorro language revealed that its speakers have "incremental" comprehension of the language, according to Dr. Matthew Wagers.

A linguistics professor at the University of California Santa Cruz, Wagers was part of a team that conducted last summer an experiment that aims to "bring more linguistic data" in the study of how Chamorro speakers understand the language.

Wagers, along with Dr. Sandra Chung and Manuel F. Borja, shared their findings during a presentation sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities at the American Memorial Park Tuesday night.

Wagers said the experiment, which sought the speakers' comprehension of different versions of a sentence, involved working with 100 speakers of the Chamorro language between the ages of 20 to 70 from the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The experiment involved two versions in determining whether a series of sentences are good or bad: having the participants listen to sentences played on headphones and reading the sentences in a laptop with a webcam turned on.

The incremental comprehension was determined in the second version, wherein the webcam records where the speaker's eyes are while reading the sentences, which is then used to assemble a record of what the speaker is thinking as the sentences unfold in time.

Wagers

Incremental comprehension, Wagers explained, means that the speaker puts together the meaning of the sentence "almost as quickly as you hear the words and access their meaning."

"You don't wait until the end of the sentence to understand it," he told his audience. "You assess a good idea of what the speaker intends to say to you almost as quickly at they can say it to you."

According to Wagers, this is the first real time incremental comprehension unfolding in that millisecond of time that the comprehension process unfolds for any Austronesian language, including other languages in the Pacific.

On the other hand, the first version of the experiment revealed that there is an age-related variation in the community when it comes to understanding sentences. Wagers said that simple sentences are easily understood by speakers young and old alike, while complicated sentences were only identified by speakers who are 55 years or older.

The results of the experiment, Wagers said, can be put into practical use such as in the revision efforts in the Chamorro Dictionary, which is interconnected to the research project.

Wagers disclosed that another experiment is in the offing to help the study of the comprehension of the Chamorro language.

"We hope to keep doing it and we're really interested in getting your feedback and ideas on where the research should be going," he added. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Mount Carmel School holds student activities fair

Are you an athlete, a debater, an actress, or someone who wants to help the community? Or are you all of the above? Mount Carmel School students found answers to these questions when it conducted its annual Student Activities Fair last week.

Held at the start of every school year and sponsored by Student Council, the fair highlights the many extra-curricular activities available at the school. Throughout the fair, middle school and high school students visited the booths of sponsoring clubs and organizations in order to learn more about the various activities and to sign up for those that interest them.

The fair generated so much interest that middle school and high school students had to be split up into two groups that came at different times.

Freshman Thomas Manglona II was very inspired by the fair. Thomas is no stranger to extra-curricular activities himself, having served as president of his previous school's Student Council and National Junior Honor Society, and having won numerous interscholastic competitions. He is currently the president for his freshman class.

According to Thomas, the fair was a great way to learn more about the different activities at the school. "There was a lot of energy. All the clubs were convincing and I didn't know where to turn to because they were all screaming for me to join," said Thomas. He added, "I loved it. I joined some clubs and I look forward to being a part of them."

This year's fair included booths from the school's athletic teams, Math Court, Mock Trial, the National Forensics League, the National Honor Society, the Red Cross Club, and the Theater Club. Now that clubs and organizations are up and running, they will shift their attention to the upcoming Student Leadership Retreat, in which all activities for the year will be planned out. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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17 complete SHRM warehousing skills training

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative Program just completed its second warehousing program. Photo above shows the 17 referrals from the CNMI Department of Labor and the CNMI Workforce Investment Act Office pose with their certificates along with program manager Frank Gibson, first row fifth from left.

The CNMI Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative Program just completed its second warehousing program after a week of job preparation and warehousing skills training.

The WFRI Program is now soliciting openings to help their graduates, all U.S. qualified workers, find employment in today's tough job market.

Seventeen referrals from the CNMI Department of Labor and the CNMI Workforce Investment Act Office wrapped up 40 hours of training during the week of July 30 to Aug. 3, with both warehousing classroom training and on-site observation, plus forklift training and testing to obtain their forklift operator certification.

» 17 wrap up 40 hours of training under Workforce Readiness Initiative Program

"The SHRM program is a positive effort to help U.S. qualified workers join the local workforce. Our efforts, so far, have been successful in providing good introductory and basic training," Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM said. "Our participants are ready to join a company and continuing their learning through daily warehousing work. They have all shown their sincere intention, attending each day of training, showing up on time, showing interest and participating well. They received good solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. We have already placed several of the trainees and have interviews ongoing to place others. However, we still need additional openings to provide opportunities for our graduates."

The fourth Initiative program participants were Joseph A. Aguon, Raymond J.M. Castro, Kelvin Fitial, Stanley Kaneshi, Terence Matagolai, Fame Ngirutoi, Darion J.J. Omar, Raymond G. Omar, Brian T. Palacios, David Palacios, Anthony Repeki, James Sablan, Jonovan K. Sablan, Vincent S. Tagabuel, Fred Takada, Eric John A. Torres, and Peter P. Yorormad.

The warehousing program included job preparation classes on job applications and resumes, job interviews, customer service, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on OSHA requirements, basic warehousing operations, basic warehousing maintenance, and forklift operation, culminating in hands on forklift operation and certification.

Gibson said that the success of the program is also due to the professional skills and interest of the instructors.

"I would like to thank the SHRM members, Jim Arenovski from Delta Management, Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, and Josephine Mesta from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, who worked with the participants to prepare them for employment. Special thanks are owed to Joven Cruz from CTSI Logistics for the warehousing training and the use of the CTSI warehouse area as a training venue. I would also like to thank David Dobey, Professional Training Technology, Inc., from Guam, for the OSHA and forklift training and certification, and Max Kretzers, D&Q Company/Tan Holdings, and other staff of CTSI and D&Q who volunteered their time to assist in the warehouse tour. I appreciate the business community's willing assistance."

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce in support of the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program.

This Initiative to benefit the community started in April with its first training program and will continue with additional programs throughout the year. The fifth program of the grant, food service training for food service and wait staff, will be conduct during the week of Aug. 27-31.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its Workforce Readiness Initiative is to facilitate the preparation of unemployed US qualified workers through job preparation and skills training, helping them to become better qualified to enter the CNMI job market. The Initiative consists of a series of one week pre-placement training programs with a combination of general employee enhancement and job specific skills in employment areas where SHRM-Member companies and other community businesses have indicated a need for replacement or additional staff.

SHRM seeks the help of the business community to make this program a success and asks that businesses notify the Workforce Readiness Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the Initiative can arrange training programs to help fill these needs. SHRM also asks community businesses to work with the Initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations. In turn, the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative will be working with the Workforce Investment Agency (WIA) and the CNMI Department of Labor to obtain suitable candidates that can receive WIA support to help with salary costs.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Qualified individuals who are registered with WIA or the DOL Employment Services should contact those offices and let them know of their interest. Those who are not registered and are interested in joining one of the Initiative programs should immediately register with WIA and express their interest. All interested candidates should sign up with WIA to allow them to help employers with funding of Initiative graduates. Interested individuals can also contact Frank Gibson, the Workforce Readiness Initiative manager by e-mail at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already committed to accepting initiative graduates and the initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering initiative graduates can also contact Frank Gibson at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of $102,000 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a sub-grant award from the CNMI Department of Commerce. ***(SHRM)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that the

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Coastal Resources Management Office

will be relocating to Susupe, behind Department of Public Safety Motor Vehicle Bureau, effective Monday, August 20, 2012.

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Requirements:	High School diploma or GED, additional technical education preferred Three years experience in the trade Knowledge of cooling units, and physically able to perform essential functions Follow plans of procedure, determined sequence of operations and complete a project using acceptable procedures Must be able to be contacted by phone and must respond to emergencies Performs preventive and regularly schedules maintenance of the systems, Technician's training and certification must be in accordance with the provisions found in Subsection 82.161 of 40 CFR Part 82 Subpart F Helps other maintenance staff as needed or as directed
Deadlines:	Applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort no later than Friday, 5:00 pm on September 14, 2012. You can also email your application to mada@laolaobay.com. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of an application. No phone calls will be accepted.
Applications:	Applications are available at the Front Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kagman
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CRIME OF THE WEEK

NMC burglary and theft

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Northern Marianas College in As Terlaje.

Last July 26 about 8:15am, police responded to the crime scene located at the college's main office building P. Employees reporting to work that morning, discovered ventilation duct covers on the office floors. The suspect or suspects gained entry into the offices through the ventilation ducts. A search was conducted and one black Sony Vaio computer laptop valued at over $1,000 was missing.

The Department of Public Safety and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(CNMI Crime Stoppers)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The Friends of the Arts announces auditions for *Deathtrap*

The Friends of the Arts is pleased to announce its next theatrical presentation, the Broadway success *Deathtrap*, scheduled for Oct. 12, 13, and 14. Written by Ira Levin, *Deathtrap* holds the record as the longest running comedy-thriller on Broadway. The FOA production of this two-act play will be directed by Harold Easton.

Auditions for the play will be held at the Dolphin Theater at Marianas High School on Sunday, Aug. 19, from 1pm to 5 pm. The play has five adult parts, three men and two women, of varying ages. Both experienced actors and would-be actors are invited to come and read for the part. If you have any questions, call Frank L. Gibson, the managing producer, at 287-7476. ***(FOA)***

CNMI SBDC 'How to start a business' workshop today

The CNMI Small Business Development Center's "How to start a business" workshop will be held today, Aug. 17. The workshop is from 9am to 11am and will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room located at the Familia Building in Garapan. ***(PR)***

Revenue & Taxation open on Aug. 31

Department of Revenue and Taxation wishes to inform all CNMI residents that its office will be open on Aug. 31,2012. The division would like to remind the general public that July 2012 Business Gross Revenue Tax return file is due on Aug. 31. ***(PR)***

5 beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, S.Puerto Rico Dump, Hafa Adai Drainage, and Garapan Fishing Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

MHS Class of '93 reunion meeting today

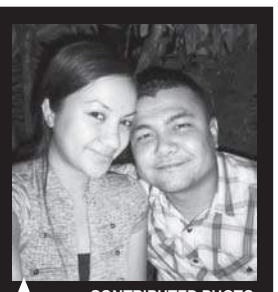
The Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting on Aug. 17, starting at 6:30pm at the home of Irene and Jack Torres in Sadog Tasi.

For location and direction, contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Ri Tudela at 285-1526. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to our very special mother Dolores "Lola" Tomokane, who celebrated her birthday last Aug. 16. All the gold, diamonds, and other jewels on Earth cannot match the shine of love and care that you have bestowed upon us. You have given us the priceless gift of life and the priceless gift of having such a great mother. Happy birthday Mommy! With love, your children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Vince Basa! Wishing you another year of happiness, success, and good health! Lots of love from your family and children Vinysha, Victoria, Vinson, and Vayden.

Happy birthday to Lois Manese who us celebrating her special day today, Aug. 17. Smile is a curve that sets everything straight and wipes wrinkles away. Hope this day would bring a lots of smiles and joy. Greetings from your Joeten Ace Hardware Family.

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CNMI to join new working group for health reform

At the Summer 2012 National Association of Insurance Commissioners' National Meeting in Atlanta, Department of Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar submitted his intention to join a new working group formed to assist the states and territories to consider either a federally facilitated or partnership exchange.

The Health Care Reform Regulatory Alternatives Working Group is chaired by Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Michael F. Consedine and vice-chaired by Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner Ted Nickel.

Igisomar

"I am grateful for the creation of this new working group," said Igisomar. "This should be a good forum for CNMI and the territories to address their concerns collectively, while providing additional support and capacity to the overall committee members."

Igisomar first learned of the new charge to the Health Resource and Managed Care (B) Committee during an Executive (EX) Committee meeting over the weekend, and submitted his support to now Chairman Consedine so as to make sure Territories (and not only States) as Members of the NAIC are included and considered in the finalized new charge.

The working group will serve as a forum for examining questions that states and territories may have regarding the impact of partnership and federally facilitated exchanges on state regulation of health insurance markets. They will also look for ways the states and territories can innovate and try to identify and address health insurance market issues facing these states. The charges of the working group are: 1. Provide a forum for discussion of and guidance on the alternatives to implementing a Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) compliant state-based exchange and the implications of such alternatives on NAIC Member regulatory authority. 2. Identify and assist Members in resolving open issues that need to be addressed with regard to non-state exchange PPACA alternatives. 3. Analyze impact of PPACA on existing member regulatory authority both inside and outside of a federal exchange as well as the impact on NAIC Model Laws (Unfair Insurance Practices Act, Producer Licensing Model Act, Model Law on Examinations, etc.) 4. Identify opportunities for Members to continue to innovate and regulate outside of a federal exchange.

The charges were drafted to include the needs of the territories, to which the health reform law applies differently. ***(PR)***

Judiciary says goodbye to Kharrazian

The Commonwealth Judiciary held a farewell luncheon for Superior Court law clerk Pejman D. Kharrazian last Tuesday, Aug. 14.

Judges and staff of the Judiciary bid their fond farewells to Kharrazian who had worked for the past year as a law clerk for associate judge David A. Wiseman. The judge presented his departing law clerk with a certificate attesting to "his exemplary performance as a law clerk, thereby materially contributing to the maintenance of liberty under law through the fair and impartial administration of justice in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Superior Court law clerk Pejman Kharrazian holds his certificate attesting to his "exemplary performance as a law clerk."

Kharrazian graduated summa cum laude—second in his class—from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in May of 2011. While attending the school, he was a staff editor for the *Thomas Jefferson Law Review*. Kharrazian will be returning to San Diego to join a law firm where previously been an intern.

Wiseman, in philosophical remarks about the parting of friends and associates, recognized that the departure of law clerks is a regular and expected part of life in a court. The judge also noted that during his twelve years of service on the bench he has had nine law clerks, all of whom found Saipan a beneficial and friendly place to work during the first year of their legal careers. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman joined by three of his most recent law clerks. From the left Jennifer Dockter, clerk of court for the Commonwealth Supreme Court; departing Pejman Kharrazian; Wiseman; and Charity R. Hodson, Kharrazian's replacement.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-011

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the ***Repair and Renovation of Tanapag Social Hall***, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after August 03, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. ***Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by PublicLaw 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID of preference is claimed.***

There will be a ***Pre-bid Conference*** for this project on August 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Tanapag Social Area, Tanapag Village, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 24, 2012 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time August 28, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time August 28, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 28, 2012, and must be received no later than September 06, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, September 10, 2012, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on August 31, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US $100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B.CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
Purchase Gym Deck Floor Covers, Sports and
Exercise Equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium
ITB12-GOV-102

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids to purchase gym deck floor covers, sports and exercise equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available August 13, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of $25.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be presented when obtaining a project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC is available at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospective bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on Wednesday, August 22, 2012, 9:00 AM., at the Governor's Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding the invitation to bid must be submit in writing to Leona Sablan, Project Coordinator, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or via facsimile (670) 664-2408, no later than August 29, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB12-GOV-102 Purchase Gym Deck Floor Covers, Sports and Exercise Equipment for the Rota High School Gymnasium. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 AM, Monday, September 10, 2012. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 AM, September 10, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, September 10, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than September 19, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 AM, September 20, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened and read at 1:00 PM, September 10, 2012.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Project performance time for completion is 90 calendar days. The daily-liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) One Hundred Dollars ($100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 90 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid in the best interests of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

United Airlines loses girl on solo trip to camp

NEW YORK (AP)—Should you let your child fly alone?

Parents may wonder after a couple alleged this week that their 10-year-old daughter flying to summer camp was stranded at one of the world's busiest airports after United Airlines failed to keep track of her.

The girl ultimately made it to camp safely. But the incident highlights some of the risks of children flying alone, including the a little-known industry practice of hiring outside companies to escort kids from gate to gate.

Phoebe Klebahn was flying as an "unaccompanied minor" from San Francisco to Traverse City, Mich. with a connection in Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The girl's parents, Annie and Perry Klebahn, had paid United an extra $99 to assist her during the June 30 trip.

When the first flight landed in Chicago, the company United hired apparently failed to show up.

The parents claim in a letter sent to the airline that their daughter asked for help, including the use of a cell phone, but was repeatedly told to wait by flight attendants. And it appears no one from the airline called the camp after the girl missed her connecting flight.

"She was sad and scared and no one helped," the parents wrote. They shared the letter with media though a family friend who is a business management professor.

The parents did not respond to calls seeking an interview.

The Klebahns wrote that it took them nearly an hour of frantic phone calls to get an answer from United once the camp informed them their daughter hadn't arrived at the Traverse City airport.

Lacker says Fed's power to fix economy now limited

WASHINGTON (AP)—A voting member of the Federal Reserve's policy committee is cautioning that the Fed's power to fix the U.S. economy is limited now.

Jeffrey Lacker, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press that the Fed can only do so much to lower the 8.3 percent unemployment rate.

"There are a lot of people overestimating the extent to which monetary policy is capable of having any sustained effect on growth or labor markets," Lacker said.

Lacker alone has dissented from the past five Fed statements that sketched out steps intended to bolster the economy. He has maintained that the Fed has done what it can to bolster a weak economy and that going further risks triggering high inflation.

Financial markets are hoping the central bank will launch a third round of bond buying at its Sept. 11-12 meeting to try and jump-start economic growth. The bond purchases are designed to push long-term interest rates down and generate more borrowing and spending.

The Fed signaled at its meeting in late July that it is ready to act if growth remains weak and unemployment stays high.

Lacker's comments stand in contrast to those from Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, who told Congress last month that he still believed the central bank had the ability to provide more support to the economy. Bernanke said the Fed would be ready to provide more aid if it looked like such support was needed to lower the unemployment rate.

Thousands line up for right to work legally in US

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Nathaly Uribe has all the papers she needs to get a work permit—something the 17-year-old daughter of a construction worker only dreamed of growing up as an illegal immigrant in the United States.

The high school senior said she hopes a federal program beginning Wednesday and defers deportation for illegal immigrants will make it easier to get a decent job and help pay for college.

"This is my country. It's where my roots are," said Uribe, who moved from Chile when she was a toddler and lives in Glen Burnie, Md. "It feels great to know that the country that I call home is finally accepting me."

Thousands of young illegal immigrants lined up Wednesday hoping for the right to work legally in America without being deported. The Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals could expand the rights of more than 1 million young illegal immigrants by giving them work permits, though they would not obtain legal residency here or a path to citizenship.

At least 13,000 people stood in line in Chicago, clutching reams of paperwork, for a workshop led by immigrant rights advocates at the city's Navy Pier. Hundreds of potential applicants waited outside nonprofit offices in Los Angeles for help filing paperwork to open the door to the staples of success in America—a work permit, and then later a Social Security number and driver's license.

"It's something I have been waiting for since I was two years old," said Bupendra Ram, a 25-year-old communications graduate student in Fullerton, Calif., who still needs supporting documents from his Fiji Islands home before he can apply. "This offers us an opportunity to fulfill the dreams I've had since I was a child."

Less than three months before an expected tight presidential election, the new immigration program is mired in controversy. Republican critics accuse President Barack Obama of drafting the plan to boost his political standing with Latinos ahead of November's vote and say the program favors illegal immigrants over unemployed American citizens during dismal economic times.

AP

Young immigrants stand in a long line at Chicago's Navy Pier on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012, for guidance with a new federal program that would help them work legally in the United States and avoid deportation.

Apartment and Condominium for Rent

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

One Year Contract: Regular Price from ~~$650.00~~ NOW $500.00
Monthly Basis: Price Ranges from $550.00
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
AMENITIES:

- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-duty security guard at night
- Parking space
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Swimming pool

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

One Year Contract: 1-Bedroom Regular Price ~~$500.00~~ NOW $400.00
Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $350.00 • 1 Bedroom - $450.00
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar
AMENITIES:

- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-site maintenance
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Parking space

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

One Year Contract: Studio – Regular Price ~~$350.00~~ NOW $250.00
2 Bedroom Regular Price ~~$550.00~~ NOW $400.00
Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $270.00 • 2 Bedroom - $420.00
LOCATION: SAN JOSE, right next to Roshi's Store (along Beach Rd)
AMENITIES:

- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-site maintenance
- Swimming pool w/ BBQ area
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Spacious yard
- Broad parking space (front area and backside)

Apartment Promo
monthly basis-renewable until August 31, 2012

UNITS FOR SALE

ANAKS RESORT
Available units:
2-BEDROOM—Size: 79 square meter
3-BEDROOM—Size: 123 square meter

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM
Available units:
1-BEDROOM—Size: 60 square meter
2-BEDROOM—Size: 75 square meter
3-BEDROOM—Size: 120 square meter

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Nation

Ryan on Medicare: 'We will win this debate'

OXFORD, Ohio (AP)—Facing what is emerging as a defining issue, Mitt Romney running mate Paul Ryan on Wednesday invited debate over his controversial proposal to overhaul Medicare and predicted the GOP would win the argument.

"We want this debate. We need this debate. And we will win this debate," Ryan told hundreds of supporters gathered on the campus of his alma mater, Ohio's Miami University.

Romney named Ryan, a seven-term Wisconsin congressman, as his running mate on Saturday. Since then, Democrats have pounced on the plan he authored as House Budget Committee chairman to transform the popular health care system for seniors.

Over the past week, however, Ryan did not directly address the intensifying criticism - or even simply say the word "Medicare" during multiple campaign stops across six states. He addressed the issue in a handful of media interviews, but he avoided it while facing voters.

That changed Wednesday, the same day President Barack Obama weighed in as well.

Obama told an Iowa audience that he strengthened Medicare, despite charges from the Romney campaign that the president actually weakened the law by cutting more than $716 billion from the program as part of his health care overhaul.

But Ryan said that Obama had "raided" the program. It was the same charge that Romney had levied earlier in the day during a campaign stop in North Carolina.

Neither man mentioned that Ryan's congressional budget proposal includes the same savings, which are supposed to be realized through lower medical payments and great efficiencies in the program.

Tax cuts aren't for all

ELECTION 2012

Not all Americans would get a tax cut under Paul Ryan's plan. The bottom fifth of household incomes would receive a tax increase, while everyone else would receive a tax cut.

Percent change in average federal tax rate By cash income percentile*

Percentile	Average dollar change	Average percent change in federal tax rate
Bottom fifth	+$159	+1.4%
Second fifth	-$49	-0.2
Middle fifth	-$739	-1.3
Fourth fifth	-$1,812	-1.9
Top fifth	-$13,907	-4.6
Top 1 percent	-$155,808	-8.1
Top 0.1 percent	-$773,341	-9.3

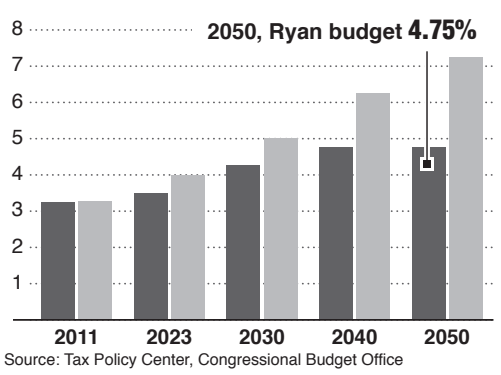
*Based on income distribution for the population NOTE: Analysis does not take into account the George W. Bush-era tax cuts

Health care program spending cuts

Medicare and Medicaid spending would decrease under the Ryan budget.

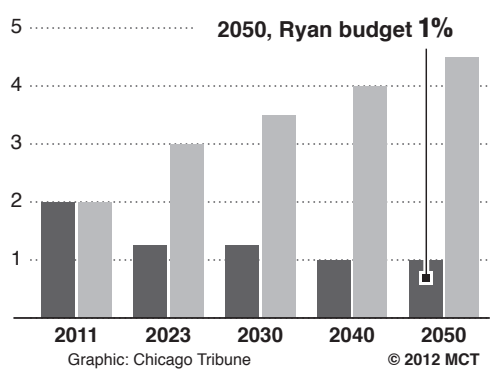
■ Spending under the Ryan budget ■ Current law

Medicare federal spending levels
By percent of U.S. gross domestic product



Source: Tax Policy Center, Congressional Budget Office

Medicaid and insurance subsidies
By percent of U.S. gross domestic product



Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2012 MCT

Romney seeks to undercut Obama's likability lead

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Mitt Romney is portraying the outwardly calm President Barack Obama as a man seething with animosity and power lust as the Republicans seek to undermine one of the Democrat's greatest campaign strengths—his personal likability.

The president's re-election effort, Romney said Wednesday, "is all about division and attack and hatred." Obama, Romney added later while campaigning in Charlotte, is an angry man who "will do or say anything to get elected."

Whether by calculation or not, Obama highlighted his most genial side as he campaigned in Iowa, joking with voters about the pleasures of state fair junk food, and joshing with his wife, who made a rare campaign appearance with him.

"It all boils down to who you are and what you stand for," Michelle Obama told Iowans in Dubuque, on the final leg of the president's three-day bus tour of that toss-up state. "We all know who my husband is, don't we? And we all know what he stands for."

With polls showing Obama with a slight lead, Romney is focused on the "likability gap" that is evident in surveys that consistently show Obama ranking higher on general favorability questions than on handling the economy, which until now has been the Republican's chief focus. Romney's approach also comes as he and his running mate, congressional budget writer Paul Ryan, face increasing questions on a touchy economic issue for many Americans" their stance on Medicare.

While some GOP strategists question whether Romney's tactic will work, they agree that he is vulnerable among voters who find Obama more personally appealing. Romney and his allies appear bent on persuading voters that Obama is not what he seems.

Appearing on CBS Wednesday, Romney said the Obama campaign is "designed to bring a sense of enmity and jealousy and anger." The comments echoed the candidate's call on Tuesday for Obama to "take your campaign of division and anger and hate back to Chicago."

It's unclear whether Romney can convince voters that Obama is a politician of volcanic anger and ambition. Sometimes called "no-drama Obama," the president has disappointed liberal activists who see him as too dispassionate, meek and willing to compromise on issues such as a government-provided health insurance option.

Some GOP activists say Romney's time would be better spent talking about jobs and the economy, even if Obama has pitted wealthy Americans against the less-wealthy and allowed allies to level harsh charges against Romney.

"He is the most divisive president ever," said Virginia-based GOP consultant Mike McKenna. "But he doesn't seem angry, which is why he retains his personal popularity."

Republicans continued to complain Wednesday about Vice President Joe Biden's remarks earlier in the week in Danville, Va. Commenting in response to Republican criticism that the Obama administration had sought to regulate Wall Street too tightly, Biden told a crowd that included hundreds of black supporters that the GOP wanted to "unchain Wall Street." He added, "They're going to put y'all back in chains."

Republicans said Biden's remarks carried racial overtones and demanded that Obama condemn them. In an interview with People magazine Wednesday, Obama instead defended Biden, saying his running mate's only meaning was that consumers won't be protected if Wall Street reforms are repealed.

Official: Suspect criticized group before shooting

WASHINGTON (AP)—A man suspected of shooting and wounding a security guard at the headquarters of a Christian lobbying group on Wednesday made a negative reference about the organization's work before opening fire, a law enforcement official said.

Police said the man entered the front lobby of the Family Research Council in Washington around 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, began arguing with a security guard and then shot him in the arm. The gunman was subdued by the guard and others and taken into custody but had not been charged as of Wednesday evening.

Another law enforcement official identified the suspect as Floyd Corkins II, and authorities were interviewing Corkins' neighbors in Herndon, Va., near Washington. Both officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Corkins, 28, had been volunteering recently at a community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The Family Research Council strongly opposes gay marriage and abortion and says it advocates "faith, family and freedom in public policy and public opinion."

Corkins made a negative comment about the organization before the shooting, but the reference was not specific, one of the law enforcement officials said. The guard, Leo Johnson, was in stable condition and was being interviewed.

Corkins had been volunteering for about the past 6 months at The DC Center for the LGBT Community, said David Mariner, executive director of the community center, which is in Northwest Washington. He usually staffed the center's front desk on Saturdays, and his most recent shift was about two weeks ago.

"He always struck me as a kind, gentle and unassuming young man. I'm very surprised that he could be involved in something like this," Mariner said.

Though authorities did not publicly reveal a motive, advocacy groups across the ideological spectrum condemned the violence, with some casting it as a hate crime.

"Today's attack is the clearest sign we've seen that labeling pro-marriage groups as `hateful' must end," Brian Brown, the president of the National Organization for Marriage, said in a statement. The Family Research Council's president, Tony Perkins, said the organization's primary concern was with the wounded guard.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the president, who was traveling in Iowa Wednesday, was informed of the shooting shortly after 1 p.m.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sept. 11 memorial defends display of steel cross

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge should toss out a lawsuit by a national atheists group seeking to stop the display of a cross-shaped steel beam found among the wreckage of the World Trade Center, lawyers for the operators of the Sept. 11 memorial at ground zero say. The lawyers said in papers filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan on Monday that the 17-foot-tall beam will be displayed as a historical object because it tells part of the story of the rescue and recovery effort after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which destroyed the twin towers and killed thousands of people. They said the display of the cross among 1,000 artifacts, photos, oral histories and videos is no different from the showing of hundreds of religious paintings routinely displayed at government-supported art museums.

Wildfire arsonist guilty of 5 heart attack deaths

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—A jury on Wednesday found a California man guilty of murdering five people who had heart attacks after he deliberately started a blaze that ballooned into a massive wildfire. Jurors in San Bernardino found 30-year-old Rickie Fowler guilty of setting the Old Fire in the foothills above San Bernardino in October 2003 that burned 91,000 acres and torched 1,000 buildings over nine days. Prosecutors charged Fowler with the murders of five men, ranging in age from 54 to 93, who died from heart attacks after their homes burned to the ground or as they rushed to evacuate. Fowler also was convicted of two counts of arson, along with special circumstances that make him eligible for the death penalty.

Police: Burglar made off with Steve Jobs' wallet

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)—The burglar who broke into Steve Jobs' house made off with the Apple Inc. co-founder's wallet with a dollar inside and his driver's license in addition to Apple gadgets and jewelry, according to a police report released Tuesday. The details of the July 17 theft, and the suspect's alleged confession, were reported Tuesday by the *San Jose Mercury New*. The suspect, Kariem McFarlin, 35, targeted the unoccupied Palo Alto home because it was under renovation, authorities said. When construction crews left, he hopped a fence and found a spare key, according to the report. McFarlin apparently realized he was in Jobs' house when he saw a letter addressed to him.

Asia

Asian island dispute flares on WWII anniversary

TOKYO (AP)—Regional tensions flared on the emotional anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender as activists from China and South Korea used Wednesday's occasion to press rival territorial claims, prompting Japanese authorities to arrest 14 people.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said the arrests of the 14 people, who included Hong Kong residents and mainland Chinese, had caused tensions over its territorial dispute with Japan to surge "to a new high."

Within hours, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying summoned Japan's ambassador to China, Uichiro Niwa, and called her Japanese counterpart, Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi, to protest the detention of Chinese citizens, the Foreign Ministry said.

Fu demanded that Japan release the detainees immediately and without condition, the ministry said in a statement.

The 14 people who were arrested had traveled by boat from Hong Kong to a set of uninhabited islands controlled by Japan but also claimed by China and Taiwan. Japanese police initially arrested five activists who swam ashore in the East China Sea chain, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese.

Japanese coast guard officers later arrested nine others who stayed on the fishing boat, the Kai Fung 2, including two who had earlier landed on one of the islands and went back on board, officials said. Coast guard officials said the activists were likely to be taken to Naha, the capital of Okinawa prefecture, which has jurisdiction over the islands, for further questioning.

"We want the world to know that this is—way back in history—the territory of China, and as Chinese people we can go there fishing, touring at our own right," David Ko, a spokesman for the activists, said in a telephone interview from Hong Kong. "The Japanese have no right to stop us."

Chinese activists last landed on the island in 1996, and seven who were arrested were repatriated quickly.

Japan says it has controlled the five main islands for more than 100 years. It has been trying to place four that are privately held under state ownership to bolster its territorial claim.

Chinese patrol vessels have been spotted frequently in the waters, prompting Tokyo to repeatedly protest and beef up its own patrols in the area.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said that Japan historically and by international law owns the islands, and that there is no room for its sovereignty to be questioned. He called the trespassing "extremely regrettable."

The handling of the arrested activists is extremely sensitive. Japan has the option of repatriating them or sending them to criminal court.

Japan's arrest and weekslong detention of a Chinese fishing boat captain in 2010 after his vessel collided with Japanese patrol boats near the disputed islands triggered the worst diplomatic dispute in years between the two countries, prompting Beijing to suspend some exports and cancel high-level talks.

Also Wednesday, a group of South Koreans reached another set of disputed islands controlled by South Korea in a demonstration aimed at belittling Japan's claims to that territory.

The anniversary of Japan's surrender in 1945 revives long-running territorial disputes in Asia as well as emotional memories of Japan's brutal colonial occupation of many neighbors that ended only at the close of the war. While Japan routinely apologizes for its wartime actions, its politicians often anger neighboring countries by visiting the Yasukuni Shrine, a memorial to Japan's war dead, including top war criminals.

AP

In this photo provided by Japan Coast Guard, a Hong Kong fishing boat sails in the water, 52 kilometers (32 miles) west of the Uotsuri Island, one of the islands of Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, in East China Sea, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012.

Militants attack Pakistani air force base

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Militants attacked an air force base in northwest Pakistan filled with F-16s and other aircraft before dawn Thursday, sparking a heavy battle with security forces that left parts of the base in flames, officials said.

The attack on the base in Kamra, located only about 85 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Islamabad, was a brazen reminder of the threat posed by Islamist militants in Pakistan despite numerous military offensives against their sanctuaries along the Afghan border.

The militants infiltrated the base under the cover of darkness and began battling security forces at around 2 a.m., said Hafeez Aulakh, a police officer standing outside the base. The fighting was still going on three hours later, he said.

"We are outside the base and we are just hearing gunshots and sometimes small blasts," Aulakh told The Associated Press by telephone.

Special forces soldiers who joined the group trying to retake the base found the body of a suicide bomber inside, said the Pakistani air force, adding that the bomber was strapped with explosives. The air force said the battle's intensity had fallen from its height.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion will likely fall on the Pakistani Taliban, who have waged a bloody insurgency against the government for the past several years that has killed tens of thousands of people.

While the group has carried out hundreds of bombings and other attacks through the country, raids against military bases are somewhat uncommon.

Half a dozen Taliban militants attacked a major naval base in the southern port city of Karachi in May 2011, killing at least 10 people and destroying two U.S.-supplied surveillance aircraft. It took Pakistani commandos 18 hours to retake Naval Station Mehran, and two of the attackers managed to escape. That the attackers managed to infiltrate so deep into the high-security base led to speculation they may have has inside information of assistance.

There have been at least three attacks in the vicinity of the Kamra air force base in recent years, but all of them occurred outside the installation.

Wen says China still can meet growth target

BEIJING (AP)—China's premier says the country should meet this year's economic targets but is warning hardship could continue for some time and trade conditions will be grim.

During a visit Wednesday to eastern China, Premier Wen Jiabao cited a small improvement in industrial output and said employment is stable, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The report gave no direct indication whether Beijing might be considering more interest rate cuts or other stimulus measures to boost growth that slumped to a three-year low of 7.6 percent in the quarter ending in June. That is relatively robust compared with the United States, Europe and Japan but has hurt Chinese companies that depend on higher growth to drive sales.

"We have the conditions and capabilities, and will be sure to fulfill this year's economic and social development targets," Wen was quoted as saying.

However, he also "warned that the foundation for economic stabilization is still unstable, and that economic hardships may continue for some time."

The government has cut rates twice since the start of June and is pumping money into the economy through higher investment by state companies. Authorities are resisting calls for more aggressive action after their huge stimulus in response to the 2008 global crisis fueled inflation and a wasteful building boom.

The ruling Communist Party's growth target for the year is 7.5 percent. Private sector analysts expect full-year growth of about 8 percent.

The slowdown raises the risk of job losses and unrest at a time when the ruling party is trying to enforce calm ahead of a handover of power this year to younger leaders.

Analysts initially expected China's relatively robust economy to recover starting early this year but have pushed back that time frame following a drumbeat of bad news from Europe and the United States.

Export growth in July collapsed to 1 percent, well below already anemic forecasts of about 5 percent, and factory output and consumer spending weakened despite the stimulus efforts.

The slump is due in part to government efforts in 2010-11 to cool overheating and inflation with lending and investment curbs. Chinese leaders reversed course last year and eased some controls after global demand plunged but have kept in place controls on home purchases and investment to prevent overbuilding and a surge in housing costs.

Wen called on local authorities to "carry out work in line with new conditions and local realities," Xinhua said, without giving details.

The premier pointed to improvements in some areas where the plunge in sales has driven thousands of small exporters out of business.

Wen said industrial production in Guangdong and Zhejiang provinces in the southeast and Jiangsu, north of Shanghai, rose by 1.4, 1.9 and 0.7 percentage points in July compared with output in the first half.

The premier said the national economy created 8.12 million new urban jobs in the first seven months of the year, an increase of 390,000 from the same period of last year.

Wen warned company managers they "should be prepared for a relatively long period of grim foreign trade," according to Xinhua.

The government set a target of a 10 percent trade growth this year. Trade grew 9.2 percent in the first half of the year but the full-year target looks increasingly difficult to meet.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN chief says East Timor ready to protect itself

DILI, East Timor (AP)—East Timor is ready to maintain stability on its own without the hundreds of international peacekeepers who have stayed in Asia's newest country a decade after it declared formal independence, the United Nation's chief said Wednesday. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon started his two-day trip to the small, half-island nation by meeting with President Taur Matan Ruak, the former army chief and one-time guerrilla fighter who took office May 20 and replaced Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos-Horta. The visit comes after the U.N. Security Council praised the country of 1.1 million people for holding peaceful presidential elections.

Hanwha chairman sentenced to 4 years in prison

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A Seoul court sentenced the chairman of one of South Korea's largest industrial conglomerates to four years in prison and fined him 5.1 billion won ($4.5 million) for embezzlement and tax evasion. Seoul Western District Court said Thursday that Kim Seung-youn used his influence over Hanwha's affiliates to aid near- bankrupt companies run by his brother, causing over 288 billion won in losses. Experts said the ruling shows a change in South Korea where chiefs and owners of industrial conglomerates known as chaebol have often received pardons and lenient punishment for white collar crimes.

Grenades at Afghan mosque, bicycle bomb injure 23

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Nearly two dozen Afghan civilians were wounded on Wednesday when two grenades exploded inside a mosque compound and a bicycle bomb blew up in a city market, officials said. The violence came a day after bomb blasts around Afghanistan killed at least 50 people in the deadliest day for civilians this year, as Taliban insurgents and other militants ramp up violence across the country. The Taliban summer offensive coincides with Afghan police and soldiers taking on more responsibility for security while international forces start to withdraw.

World

Syrian warplanes bomb rebel-held town, 20 killed

AZAZ, Syria (AP)—Syrian fighter jets screamed through the sky Wednesday over this rebel-held town, dropping bombs that leveled the better part of a poor neighborhood and wounded scores of people, many of them women and children buried under piles of rubble. Activists said more than 20 people were killed.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 23 people died in the double airstrike and more than 200 were wounded. Mohammed Nour, a local activist reached by phone, put the death toll at 25. Neither figure could be independently confirmed.

Reporters from The Associated Press saw nine dead bodies in the bombings' immediate aftermath, including a baby. The bombings sent panicked civilians fleeing for cover. So many were wounded that the local hospital locked its doors, directing residents to drive to the nearby Turkish border so the injured could be treated on the other side. One person's remains were bundled into a small satchel.

A group of young men found a man buried in the wreckage of destroyed homes, his clothes torn and his limbs dirty, but still alive.

"God is great! God is great!" they chanted as they yanked him out and laid him on a blanket.

Nearby, a woman sat on a pile of bricks that once was her home, cradling a dead baby wrapped in a dirty cloth. Two other bodies lay next to her, covered in blankets. She screamed and threw stones at a TV crew that tried to film her.

The bombing of Azaz, some 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Aleppo, shattered the sense of control rebels have sought to project since they took the area from President Bashar Assad's army last month. Azaz is also the town where rebels have been holding 11 Lebanese Shiites they captured in May. The attack came on the same day the U.N. released a report accusing Assad's forces and pro-government militiamen of war crimes during a May bloodbath in the village of Houla that killed more than 100 civilians, nearly half of them children. It said rebels were also responsible for war crimes in at least three other killings.

The long-awaited report by the U.N. Human Rights Council marks the first time the world body has referred to events in Syria as war crimes—on both the government and rebel sides—and could be used in future prosecutions against Assad or others.

It said the scale of the Houla carnage indicated "involvement at the highest levels" of Syria's military and government. The council also said the conflict is moving in increasingly brutal directions on both sides.

Also on Wednesday, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, comprised of 57 member states, released a final statement from its two day summit in Saudi Arabia's Muslim holy city of Mecca urging support of the opposition. The statement did not mention suspending Syria's membership, but OIC Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu told reporters after the summit that the organization had agreed to do so. The move is largely symbolic.

AP

Injured Syrian women arrive at a field hospital after an air strike hit their homes in the town of Azaz on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012.

UN panel concludes war crimes perpetrated in Syria

GENEVA (AP)—The killings took place under a late spring sun. The squads poured into the Syrian village of Houla on foot and in vehicles: cars, minivans and pickups mounted with machine guns.

At the end, more than 100 people were dead—nearly half of them children—in what the United Nations described for the first time Wednesday as a war crime perpetrated by the government forces and shabiha militia backing the regime of President Bashar Assad.

People who tried to remove the bodies were shot at. No one who'd survived the massacre had fled to a nearby national hospital that was accessible on foot—they knew the army had occupied it for months. And when U.N. observers arrived the next day to check on the scene, they found government troops in control.

In a highly anticipated report that spells out clear responsibility for attacks on civilians, an independent commission appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Council laid the groundwork for possible prosecutions in international courts against the Syrian leader and other senior government officials.

The panel's report also contained an ominous warning that Syria's civil war was moving in "brutal" directions on all fronts as Assad's forces step up air assaults and anti-government armed groups seek stronger firepower to fight back.

It found that the regime and pro-government shabiha militia were directly responsible for the killing of more than 100 civilians in Houla in late May. The Syrian government had reported that the Syrian Army was defending itself at Houla from an attack by "terrorists," and said some of its soldiers were killed in the clashes.

But the U.N. panel's report to the 47-nation Human Rights Council, which is based in Geneva, says it determined that the Houla killings and numerous other murders, unlawful killings, acts of torture, rape and other sexual violence and indiscriminate attacks on civilians were carried out "pursuant to state policy pointing to the involvement at the highest levels of the armed and security forces and the government."

With new chief, new generation in Egypt military

CAIRO (AP)—With the surprising easy removal of Egypt's top brass, Egypt's Islamist President Mohammed Morsi tapped into discontent among the military's younger officers who apparently grew frustrated with the aging generals. Significantly, the move reflects a recognition among the new generation that the military must back out of trying to rule directly and cede room for the first civilian president.

Whether this signals a decline in the political and economic influence of the military, which has been the source of Egypt's rulers for the last six decades, or is a new power-sharing arrangement with the new Islamist civilian-led administration, remains to be seen.

The new defense minister, 57-year-old Lt. Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, is 20 years younger than his sidelined predecessor and was the youngest member of the council of generals who ruled Egypt for 17 months from the fall of Hosni Mubarak until Morsi's inauguration in late June.

The inside maneuvering that led to this week's removal of the man who led the military for 20 years, Field Marshall Hussein Tantawi and his chief of staff, remain obscure. The changes have been publicly depicted as a consensus agreement between the generals and Morsi.

But there are signs it may have been in effect a palace coup by Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood figure who is eager to assert his authority, and younger officers who wanted a change from the septuagenarian leadership. Those younger officers viewed the older generals as too hide-bound and believed they hurt the military by focusing on wielding political power, opening the much-revered institution to scathing criticism and even calls for prosecution.

The opportunity for them to act came with an Aug. 5 attack by militants that killed 16 soldiers in the Sinai Peninsula near the border with Israel and Gaza, the worst death toll for the military in decades. The attack exposed the military to criticism unseen since its defeat by Israel in the 1967 war, in which Israel occupied Sinai, Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Syria's Golan Heights.

Some politicians with inside knowledge of both the military and the Brotherhood said el-Sissi himself was critical of the top brass' handling of intelligence preceding the attack and that he made his criticisms known to Morsi—possibly providing the chance to move. The politicians spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of military issues.

"I think there was a pre-agreement between el-Sissi and Morsi," said Hossam Sweilam, a retired Egyptian army general. He said the decision was a surprise to the ruling generals and that they found themselves cornered. "Tantawi and the council couldn't object because it would have meant a civil war, a military and political confrontation with the Brotherhood and their militias."

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq: Attacks kill 13 north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—Three bomb blasts shortly before sunset Wednesday killed 10 people north of Baghdad in the latest spasm of violence to grip Iraq. The blasts underscored the volatility of the country eight months after the last U.S. troops pulled out. Insurgents, led by the local branch of al-Qaida, are trying to re-establish themselves in their old strongholds and undermine the government. The first bomb went off Wednesday in Baqouba, about 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of the Iraqi capital. Police said two civilians and one police officer were killed, and five people were wounded. Minutes later, authorities said, a car bomb exploded at the entrance of the main market in Muqdadiyah, about 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad. A second blast struck as police arrived on the scene. Police said the toll for both bombings in the town was seven killed and 26 wounded.

Britain warns Ecuador over Assange asylum

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—A stern warning from Britain on the eve of Ecuador's much-anticipated decision on Julian Assange's asylum request led its foreign minister to accuse Britain on Wednesday of threatening to storm his nation's London embassy to arrest the WikiLeaks founder. Foreign Minister Ricard Patino said Britain had earlier in the day issued "a written threat that it could assault our embassy" if Assange is not handed over. Patino also said he would announce on Thursday morning whether Ecuador would grant the request of the secret-spilling former Australian hacker, who took refuge in Ecuador's embassy on June 19 to avoid extradition to Sweden. Assange faces questioning there for alleged sexual misconduct.

Off The Wall

5 members of Ariz. family get married on same day

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—It's a mega wedding day for a Mesa, Ariz., family with five siblings walking down the aisle on the same day.

The East Valley Tribune (http://bit.ly/P39zqT) reports the five Waldie children all got engaged within a few months of each other.

While trying to plan wedding dates with out-of-state family and guests, dad Doug Waldie suggested they all marry on the same day.

So five of the eight Waldie children got married Friday at a Mormon church in Mesa: 28-year-old Emily, 26-year-old Bradford, 25-year-old Sydney, 24-year-old Walker and 20-year-old Brooke.

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012 photo, Andee Waldie, right, helps paint a directional sign with her brother Bradford and soon to be sister-in-law Megan, in Mesa, Ariz., Five of the eight siblings of the Waldie family will be married to their spouses on Friday, Aug. 10.

Each ceremony was separate, but the reception was scheduled for all five couples Friday night at the Falcon Field Air Force Museum.

Eighteen-year-old Andee Waldie, one of two unmarried sisters, was a bridesmaid for four of the couples.

Conn. homeowner billed 25 years for streetlights

CHESHIRE, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut Light & Power has reimbursed a woman almost $10,500 after acknowledging it billed her for 25 years for the electricity used to power streetlights near her home.

Grace Edwards tells the Hartford Courant she discovered the billing error after a prospective buyer for the house in Cheshire asked for a history of utility charges.

The bills included line items for "9500 Lumen HP Sodium" and "6300 Lumen HP Sodium"—two sodium vapor streetlights.

When she inquired about those charges, Connecticut Light & Power said a developer who previously owned the home had agreed to pay for the streetlights.

The company removed the charges from her bill but initially refused to reimburse Edwards for past charges. She said they relented when the state's Office of Consumer Counsel got involved.

"I called CL&P, wrote letters, did it all, but they were unresponsive to any kind of reimbursement," she told the New Haven Register. "I really thought I was going to have to sue CL&P."

CL&P spokesman Mitch Gross said the company has acknowledged that the service was below the company's standard and has apologized to her for the error and the inconvenience.

"We have reimbursed her in the amount that she was incorrectly billed plus interest and will be using this case as a learning experience to identify process and customer service improvements to be sure this doesn't happen again in the future," Gross said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Nudist park holds bash to attract younger crowd

LOXAHATCHEE, Fla. (AP)—Nudist resorts have a reputation for attracting older adults, but one Florida park is trying to change that. The South Florida Sun Sentinel reports Sunsport Gardens will hold a weekend bash aimed at attracting nudists ages 18 to 30. The Florida Young Naturist's Fourth Annual End of Summer Naked Bash is slated to be a celebration of nudity and body acceptance. Sunsport Gardens principal shareholder Morley Schloss tells the paper the park has been trying to bring in younger members with lower prices, 24-hour hot tubs and Friday night drum circles. The gathering at the 40-acre Loxahatchee park is expected to gather several hundred young adults. Nudist resorts around the country have been working to attract a younger crowd.

Man accidentally shoots self in Nevada theater

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—Police say a man accidentally shot himself in the buttocks at a Nevada movie theater during a showing of "The Bourne Legacy." Police in Sparks, Nev., say the 56-year-old man's injuries are not life-threatening and no others were hurt. Authorities say the man had a permit to carry a concealed firearm. The man told officers the gun fell from his pocket Tuesday night as he was adjusting himself in the seat and that it discharged when it dropped to the floor. Authorities say the case will be sent to the city attorney for possible charges. The incident comes less than a month after a shooting at a suburban Denver theater that left 12 dead and 58 injured.

Chimp escapes Las Vegas backyard—again

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police say a chimpanzee who rampaged through a Las Vegas neighborhood last month made a second escape from her backyard enclosure. The Las Vegas Sun reports a resident called authorities about 4:50 p.m. Saturday to report CJ, the chimp, broke free from her cage. Las Vegas Metro Police captured her at around 5:30 p.m. after setting up a containment area and targeting her with tranquilizer darts. On July 12, CJ and her mate Buddy broke free and roamed through their owners' neighborhood, pounding on vehicles and climbing in an unoccupied car. Buddy also jumped on cars. An officer shot and killed him after police say he veered too closely toward onlookers. CJ was returned to her owners then, but officials say that won't happen this time. The Sun reports she was being secured at a local zoo.

Animal escape in Germany: Kangaroo on the lam

BERLIN (AP)—A kangaroo is on the lam in Germany after breaking out of a wildlife park, with a fox and a wild boar his suspected accomplices. Michael Hoffmann, assistant head of the Hochwildschutzpark Hunsrueck west of Frankfurt, said Monday the male kangaroo was one of three that escaped overnight Saturday with the inadvertent help of the menagerie that lives in the area woods. Hoffmann says the kangaroos got out of their enclosure after a young fox snuck into the park and dug a hole next to the cage's fencing. Two of the three were then able to get out of the park entirely through another hole dug by a wild boar under the exterior fence. Hoffmann says "we've got two of them back; now we're just looking for the third."

Science & Technology

Samsung starts US sales of Galaxy Note 10.1

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics Co. is taking another shot at the dominance of Apple's iPad with a tablet equipped with a digital pen and a faster processor at the same price tag.

The Wi-Fi only version of the Galaxy Note 10.1 will go on sale in the U.S. on Thursday. The price starts at $499 for the basic model with 16 gigabytes of storage and $549 for the 32-gigabyte model, expandable with an external memory card. Apple's latest iPad starts at the same price but the Note 10.1 offers some features that the iPad doesn't have, while its screen resolution is lower than the iPad's. It is Samsung's first Android tablet equipped with a digital pen and can run two applications side-by-side on a screen divided in half.

The split screen, made possible by the quad-core processor and 2 gigabytes of RAM, can be useful when taking notes while watching a video or surfing the Internet.

Analysts said this capability of the Note tablet is intended to attract business and education customers, a strategy that could be more effective than going all out against the iPad, which already dominates nearly 70 percent of the worldwide tablet market.

AP

An artist uses the Samsung Galaxy Note to draw a Batman figure at a news conference, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012 in New York.

Samsung released about a half dozen Android tablets in the last two years under the Galaxy Tab series but none of them has been as popular as the iPad. Analysts say Android tablets are less successful because of a dearth of applications and higher prices.

But with the Note 10.1, the South Korean company believes it has a product that will find favor with corporations and schools despite the iPad's rich pool of applications and sharper screen.

While Apple makes one new model for the iPhone and iPad every year to meet demand from all around the world, Samsung releases multiple mobile products with variations in prices, screen sizes, hardware and operating systems.

This strategy helped Samsung edge pass Apple in smartphone sales but hasn't paid off in the tablet area, probably because Samsung's previous tablets were not differentiated enough from the iPad. Samsung's second-quarter market share in the global tablet market fell to 9 percent, while nearly seven out of 10 tablets in the market were emblazoned with Apple logo, according to IHS iSuppli.

Review: Samsung tablet takes aim at iPad with pen

NEW YORK (AP)—The tablet-computer market is like guerrilla warfare. One huge army—Apple—dominates the land, while a ragtag group of insurgents keeps raiding and probing, hoping to find some opening it can exploit.

With Samsung's new Galaxy Note 10.1, the rebels have scored a small victory. It's a tablet that does something that the iPad doesn't do, and it does it well. This victory won't win the war, though.

Available in the U.S. starting Thursday, the $499 tablet comes with a pen, or more precisely, a stylus. It doesn't leave marks on paper, but the tablet's screen responds to it. I found it a pleasure to use: It's precise and responsive, and it glides easily across the screen.

There are styluses available for the iPad, but they're not very good. The iPad's screen can't sense sharp objects, so any stylus has to be fairly blunt. Many of them have rubber tips, which resist being dragged across the screen. The Galaxy Note has an additional layer in its screen, tuned to sense special, sharp-pointed pens through magnetism.

The Note is not the first iPad competitor to work with a stylus.

The HTC Flyer came out last year with the same ability, but several missteps limited its appeal. First, it was half the size of the iPad yet cost just as much, and that was without the pen. Second, there was no slot for the pen in the body of the tablet, making it easy to lose. The pen also was expensive, costing $80 to replace.

Samsung then built pen-sensitivity into the first Galaxy Note, a smartphone launched early this year. Though well-received, the tablet had an odd size, with a 5-inch screen. That makes it very big for smartphone but small for a tablet. With the Galaxy Note 10.1, Samsung is taking the pen squarely into iPad territory.

So what can you do with the pen? Well, this is where the Samsung offensive starts faltering. There just isn't that much the pen is useful for, because stylus-equipped tablets are so new.

You can jot down notes, or edit photos in an included version of Photoshop. You can scrawl personal notes to people and email them. Instead of using the on-screen keyboard, you can use handwriting and let the tablet interpret it. You can even enter Web addresses this way. Handwriting is slower than typing, and the tablet's interpretation introduces errors, so it's not clear why you'd use it much, though.

The stylus senses how hard you press into the screen. Samsung's S Note app responds by making the line you make thinner or thicker, an essential feature for anyone who wants to use a tablet for serious drawing. The pen also comes with a side button that works much like the left mouse button, giving access to extra features with little effort.

Very few third-party apps are designed with styluses in mind, but some of them work better with a stylus anyway. "Draw Something," a drawing game, is a good example. It's designed for use with fingers, but the stylus makes it much easier to draw intelligible pictures, because it's easier to see what you're drawing. By contrast, a finger is so big and blunt that it obscures the picture. The app would work even better if it sensed the pen pressure.

Life&Style

Chris Brown, Drake sued over NYC nightclub brawl

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Brown and Drake are being sued over a bottle-throwing nightclub brawl involving their entourages.

A company with ties to a New York nightclub filed a $16 million claim Wednesday against the music stars.

Brown's representative had no immediate comment. Drake's representatives didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The suit was filed by Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. It owns the trademark for Greenhouse, where the June 14 fracas happened. The lawsuit holds the stars responsible for the melee and says a $4 million licensing deal fell through because of it.

No criminal charges have been filed. Police say the melee started after members of Drake's entourage confronted Brown. Drake's representatives have said he was on his way out and didn't injure anyone. The club's owners aren't involved in the lawsuit.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

Chris Brown and Drake were sued Wednesday over a bottle-throwing nightclub brawl involving their entourages, as a company with ties to the club sought to hold the music stars responsible for the melee.

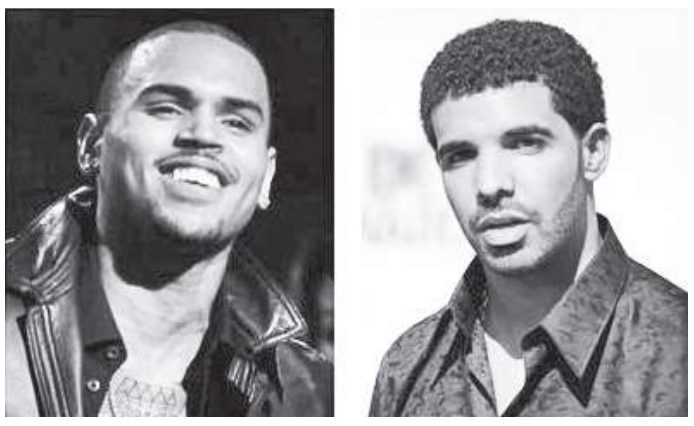
Representatives for the R&B singer and the rapper didn't immediately answer inquiries for comment about the $16 million lawsuit, which faulted the artists for—at a minimum—doing nothing to stop June 14 melee and said it sullied the chic Manhattan nightspot's name.

Brown and Drake should bear blame for a glass-flinging, broken-bottle-swinging free-for-all in a crowded club "in circumvention of the venue's extensive security measures," says the lawsuit, filed by Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. The company owns the trademark for Greenhouse; the owners of the club itself aren't involved in the lawsuit and declined to comment.

No criminal charges have been filed against anyone in the fight, which left Brown, NBA star Tony Parker and others injured. Police say the fracas started after members of Drake's entourage confronted Brown on the dance floor as he was leaving the club's basement lounge, called W.i.P. Drake's representatives have said he was on his way out and didn't injure anyone.

The lawsuit, however, points to news accounts of bad blood between Brown and Drake, both of whom have dated singer Rihanna. Entertainment Enterprises believes the two men instigated, encouraged, or at least failed to stop the fight, lawyer Andrew T. Miltenberg said.

"It's their posse, and they're in charge, and to the extent that they could have controlled or dissipated whatever was going on, we don't believe they did," he said.



AP

This combination of 2012 and 2011 file photos shows hip hop stars Chris Brown, left, and Drake.

Because of publicity about the fight, a $4 million deal to license Greenhouse's name for other clubs around the country fell through, the lawsuit says.

Entertainment Enterprises is headed by a former Greenhouse owner, Jon Bakhshi.

The current owners face suits over the fracas, including a $20 million claim from Parker.

The city shuttered the club for a time after the brawl; Greenhouse reopened July 10. It is continuing to fight a State Liquor Authority effort to nix its liquor license.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Jose Sablan Taitano

"Joe Agaga"

of Dandan was called to his eternal rest on August 14, 2012 at the age of 66 years.

In his new life, he joins his:

Parents: *Ramon Quitano Taitano and Nieves Palacios Sablan Taitano*
Brothers: *Isidro, Thomas, Vicente and Juan Taitano*
Sisters: *Bernadita, Soledad and Elena Taitano*
Father and mother in-law: *Francisco Lumberio and Pureza Lumberio*

His memories will live on in the hearts of his:

Spouse: *Nila Lumberio Taitano*
Children: *Janet/Raymond Arroyo, Jane/Chuck Scott, Joan Taitano*
Grandchildren: *Joshua Anthony and Catheryne Leila Arroyo, Ethan James Taitano*
Brothers/Sisters & In-laws: *Antonia T. Santos / †Eddie Mesa, Maria T. Salinas / †Patrick Salinas, Rosa T. Herrera, †Juan Taitano / Esperanza Taitano, Susana T. Castro / †Gregorio Castro, Jesus / Bernadita Taitano, Herman / Donata Taitano*

Additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives and friends

Nightly mass is being held at San Vicente Church at 6 pm. He will be buried on August 22, 2012 at Manila, Philippines.

Thank you and God bless.
The Taitano family

Michael Jackson's dad drops wrongful death lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's father has dropped a wrongful death lawsuit filed against the former doctor who was convicted of causing the singer's death.

Court records show Joe Jackson's request for a dismissal was granted Monday. The filings do not elaborate on a reason for dropping pursuit of the case, but two attorneys handling the case were recently ruled ineligible to practice law in California.

The Jackson family patriarch initially filed the lawsuit against Conrad Murray in June 2010, on the anniversary of his son's death. A federal judge refused to hear it and it had to be re-filed in state court in Los Angeles.

"It's good finally that this case is dismissed and gone," Murray's attorney Charles Peckham said Wednesday. "It's pretty clear that Joe Jackson intelligently and smartly dismissed this case so he, his wife and children can focus on Michael Jackson's life instead of the circumstances of his death."

He said Murray, who remains jailed and is appealing his involuntary manslaughter conviction, remains pained by Jackson's death and feels sorry for his family. "His heart goes out to them," Peckham said.

Jackson's mother, Katherine, continues to pursue a case against concert company AEG Live alleging it negligently hired and supervised Murray, who was giving Jackson nightly doses of the powerful anesthetic propofol as a sleep aid. Murray's treatments were conducted while Jackson was preparing for a series of comeback concerts.

AP

In this Sept. 3, 2009 file photo, Michael Jackson's father Joe Jackson leaves the family residence in the Encino section of Los Angeles for his son's funeral.

Her case is scheduled for trial in April.

Joe Jackson's case claimed Murray repeatedly lied to paramedics and doctors about giving Jackson propofol and that he did not keep adequate medical records—all issues that prosecutors raised against Murray during his trial last year.

He had been seeking damages for a variety of issues, including loss of income and support, emotional distress, and pain and suffering.

Lachey ready for 'Dancing' all-stars, band reunion

NEW YORK (AP)—Drew Lachey is not taking it easy before he reunites with boy band 98 Degrees and appears on "Dancing with the Stars."

Ahead of his 98 Degrees performances Friday on NBC's "Today" show and Saturday at the Mixtape Festival in Hershey, Pa., he's busy teaching at a Cincinnati-area performing arts day camp that he opened with his wife, Lea.

"My wife and I were both so influenced by the arts growing up that we wanted to be able to pass on our knowledge and experience as professional performers to the next generation," Lachey said in a recent interview.

The Lachey Arts Music Theater Camp is a two-week day camp

AP

This July 27, 2012 file photo shows Drew Lachey at the "Dancing with the Stars: All Stars" panel at the Disney ABC TCA Day 2 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

that runs through Friday. There are 38 kids and Lachey says approximately 28 of them attend on a full scholarship, learning dance, drama and singing.

After 98 Degrees performs, 36-year-old Lachey says he has about 10 days off before beginning rehearsals for "Dancing with the Stars All-Stars" which premieres September 24 on ABC. He won the show's second season and wants to show he still has what it takes to be a champion.

"It's a great opportunity to show that season two, yes, was early on in the show but us champions and early winners can still compete with these new people. They're talking about how intense the show is now and how much harder it's gotten and there might be some truth to that, but I kind of take that as a personal challenge for me to come out and represent and do well," he said.

This time around Lachey will be paired with Ana Trebunskaya. His former partner Cheryl Burke will dance with Emmitt Smith.

Lachey described not working with Burke as "bittersweet."

"There's history there and we know how to work together and how to dance together but there's also excitement to do something new. A new partner, a new dynamic, a new style, new choreography, new techniques," he said.

Once "Dancing with the Stars" wraps up the season, he's hoping 98 Degrees can record new music.

"I would just love to be out on tour again and perform in front of crowds every night," said Lachey.

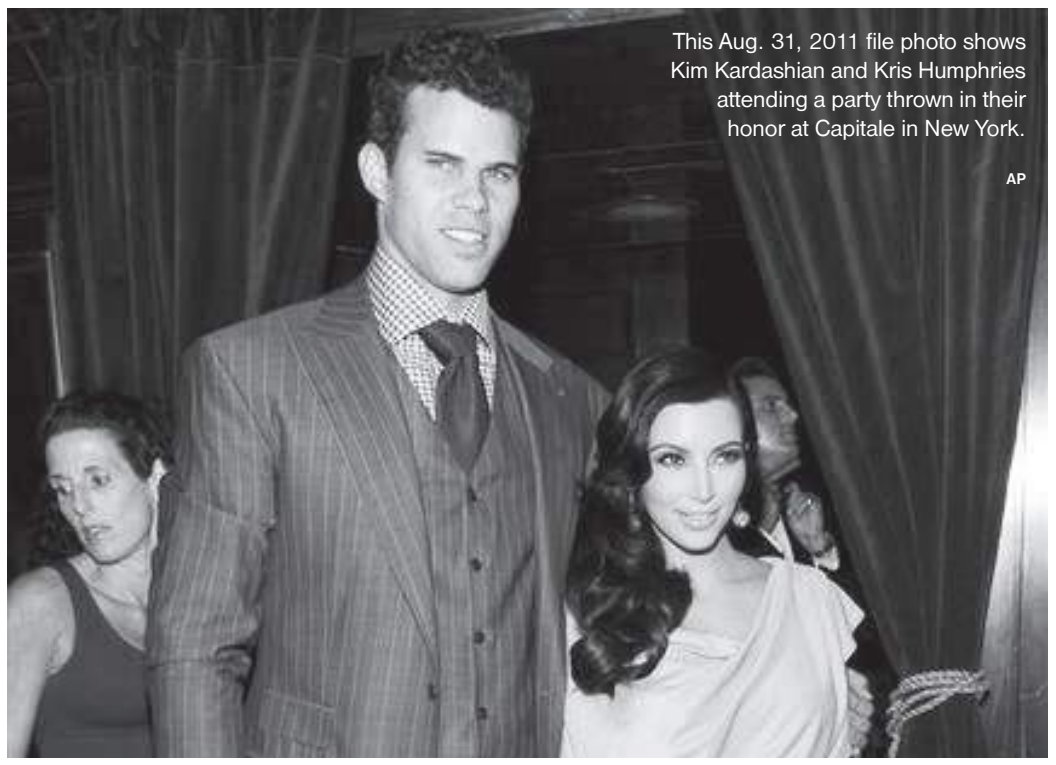
Kardashian divorce unlikely to be final this year

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian's divorce has engulfed her family and network, literally.

Attorneys for her estranged husband sought detailed records Wednesday about her reality shows and details of depositions with her mother and current boyfriend Kanye West to prove her 72-day marriage to NBA player Kris Humphries was a fraud.

The legal bickering means it is unlikely the couple will be granted a divorce, or annulment, as Humphries desires, before next year, attorneys and a judge said during a testy hearing.

Kardashian's attorney Laura Wasser accused Humphries' team of overreaching in the effort that has already resulted in $250,000 in legal fees for the model-actress. The acrimony over the breakup led lawyers for Humphries to recently try to serve West with a deposition subpoena -disguised in a Nordstrom's box -at Kardashian's home.



This Aug. 31, 2011 file photo shows Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries attending a party thrown in their honor at Capitale in New York.

AP

Humphries' attorney Marshall Waller said the lack of cooperation from West's attorneys and companies that work on Kardashian's reality show were delaying the case. He said it could take a two-week trial if Humphries keeps pursuing an annulment based on fraud.

Waller said at the hearing that he wanted to prove Kardashian had "no intention of proceeding with this marriage. That it was basically a contrivance for the benefit of her show and to make money," he said.

Wasser said the tactic was slowing the legal process and she intended to bill Humphries for her legal fees.

"To say that I'm frustrated would be an understatement," Wasser said in the packed courtroom where 18 other cases were to be called. "I am at a loss to figure out what the holdup is. ... It's dragging on, it's clogging resources."

Several depositions have been taken, including one of Humphries in his home state of Minnesota, and his girlfriend is scheduled to undergo questioning next week.

Wasser said many of Humphries' requests for information were overly broad, including information on the finances of Kardashian's mother, Kris Jenner.

The couple was married last summer in a lavish, star-studded, televised ceremony, but Kardashian soon filed for divorce on Oct. 31. Humphries responded a month later asking for an annulment, claiming the couple's nuptials were based on fraud. He did not lay out specific evidence.

Kardashian is the star of the E! Entertainment Television series "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," the network's top-rated show, averaging more than 3 million viewers in its sixth season.

Humphries, an NBA forward, recently signed a two-year, $24 million contract with the Brooklyn Nets.

Superior Court Judge Stephen Moloney said he thinks the case can still be resolved by next May and ordered the attorneys to return for an update on Nov. 28.

Father of Jessica Simpson charged with DUI in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors are charging the father of singers Jessica and Ashley Simpson with two counts of drunken driving after his arrest earlier this month.

City attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan said Wednesday that 54-year-old Joe Simpson faces a maximum sentence of 6 months in jail, 36 months of probation and a $1,000 fine.

He was arrested Aug. 4 after authorities say he registered a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 percent or above at a DUI checkpoint in the Sherman Oaks area.

The charges were filed Tuesday. Simpson is due for arraignment Aug. 30 in a Van Nuys court.

Simpson is a former minister. He helped make stars of his two daughters by managing their singing careers.

Elliott exiting 'SNL' after four seasons

NEW YORK (AP)—After four seasons, Abby Elliott is not returning to "Saturday Night Live."

AP

This April 19, 2012 file photo shows actress and cast member on "Saturday Night Live," Abby Elliott attending a special screening of "The Lucky One" at the Crosby Street Hotel in New York.

Her exit was first reported Wednesday by the comedy website Splitsider. NBC declined to comment, but a source familiar with casting changes at the show confirmed Elliott's departure.

Though not as central of a cast member, Elliott adds to the high-profile departures of Kristen Wiig and Andy Samberg from the sketch institution.

Her exit also concludes a rare "SNL" legacy: Elliott's father, Chris Elliott, was a cast member for the 1994-1995 season. Her grandfather, Bob Elliott, was half of the famous Bob and Ray comedy team.

The 38th season of "Saturday Night Live" premieres Sept. 15.

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NOW SHOWING

The Expendables 2

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:05	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:10	7:05	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R

Synopsis
The Expendables return with a vengeance after Tool (Mickey Rourke) departs for a dangerous mission, and comes home in a body bag. But as the battle hardened mercenaries set out to bury the men who murdered their fallen comrade, Tool's volatile daughter Fiona seeks bloody vengeance on her own terms. Later, when Fiona gets abducted by a brutal dictator who's been backed into a corner, Barney (Sylvester Stallone) and his men prepare to strike back with everything they've got.

Paranorman

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Susan Dudeck, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Writer/director Chris Butler puts his experience working on Coraline and Tim Burton's The Corpse Bride to good use in this charmingly morbid tale of an eccentric young hero facing supernatural forces that would make most grown-ups cower in fear. Featuring the voices of Casey Affleck, Jeff Garlin, John Goodman, Anna Kendrick, Leslie Mann, an...

Bourne Legacy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

The Campaign

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Will Ferrell, Zach Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R

Total Recall

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:00	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's/family • Rated PG

The Dark Knight Rises

Friday		4:05	7:10	10:15
Saturday	12:55	4:05	7:10	10:15
Sunday	12:55	4:05	7:10	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:05	7:10	

Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine
Crime, Action • Rated PG13

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Crush on teacher troubles student headed for college

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a male who has graduated from high school and is about to start college in another state. I'm ready for a new challenge. The only thing holding me back is a romantic attraction I have toward one of my high school teachers.

He and I are best friends, but I love him more than as a friend. I have bought him many meals and gifts since he taught me, and I have found every opportunity available to be with him. I'm not sure if he's aware of my feelings, although I wonder whether I unconsciously make myself obvious. Regardless, we have a great relationship. It kills me inside to know I can never be with him.

I have never told anyone how I feel, and I know if I ever told him, it would destroy everything we have. I can't forget about him. He's on my mind constantly. Having to leave him soon is killing me. Do you have any advice for me?

DREADING IT IN LOUISIANA

DEAR DREADING IT: Yes. Go away to college and open yourself to new experiences and relationships. Correspond with this special person, and when you return for school breaks, continue the friendship. Your feelings may or may not be reciprocated, but it is important that you let some time—years—elapse before trying to pursue anything closer with him. If you don't wait, it could be damaging to his career.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Last Saturday, two days before my 75th birthday, I did something very uncharacteristic of me. I went to a tattoo parlor 25 miles away and had a flower put on my right buttock. I don't intend to tell anyone. It was my birthday present to myself.

This was not a spur-of-the-moment impulse. I have told my husband many times that if I made it to 75, I might celebrate it with a tattoo. He just laughed it off. No one in our family has one, and in the past, I have been critical of them. But this one does not show.

Now I have to find a way to tell my husband. He has an explosive temper that goes on and on, and he never drops an issue—ever. I need advice, and soon. Help me, will you?

SITTING ON A SECRET

DEAR SITTING ON A SECRET: How do you know you are the first in your family to get a tattoo? If someone else also got one in a place that doesn't show, would they have told you after you told everyone you didn't like tattoos?

You can't hide this from your husband forever, so don't try. If he reacts badly, remind him that the buttock with the flower belongs to YOU and that at 75, you're a big girl who didn't need anyone else's consent.

Now it's time to give yourself another birthday present: Refuse to listen to your husban's verbal abuse, and you'll be much happier.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What are you supposed to do when you are sitting in a salon having your hair cut and styled, and the next appointment shows up early and engages your stylist in nonstop conversation?

My wife says this happens often in beauty parlors and I should suck it up. I wanted the stylist's full attention so I could get a good haircut. She's not cheap. Am I right? What would you do?

PERPLEXED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PERPLEXED: For the stylist to carry on an ongoing conversation with the next customer was unprofessional. If it happened to me, I would take my stylist aside and explain my feelings.

For the next customer to monopolize the stylist's attention was rude. The person should have been asked to sit somewhere and make him- or herself comfortable until you were finished.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

AP source: Michael J. Fox returning to series TV

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael J. Fox is planning a return to series TV, more than a decade after he left to concentrate on fighting Parkinson's disease.

The actor, who first gained fame in the 1980s sitcom "Family Ties" and later headlined "Spin City," will star in a comedy that's in development at Sony Pictures Television for 2013, according to people with knowledge of the project.

The people, who lacked authority to publicly discuss the matter, spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity. The project has drawn strong interest from the major networks, they said.

AP

In this April 28, 2012 file photo, actor Michael J. Fox attends the premiere of "The Avengers" during the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

The actor's publicist did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Sony declined comment.

Fox, 51, who starred in the hit "Back to the Future" movie franchise, is working with Will Gluck, director of the film "Easy A," and writer Sam Laybourne, whose credits include "Cougar Town" and "Arrested Development," the people said.

The actor, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1991, left "Spin City" in 2000 and said he intended to focus on helping find a cure for the disease. He started a foundation, which bears his name, to fund research toward that goal.

Although he reduced his workload because of Parkinson's, Fox has made guest appearances on TV series including "Rescue Me," ``Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "The Good Wife."

In May, Fox told ABC News that a new drug regimen has helped him control the tics that are a result of the disease and allowed him to take on more acting roles.

The new Sony project was first reported by the entertainment website Vulture.

Stewart's role uncertain in 'Snow White' plans

NEW YORK (AP)—Universal Pictures is continuing to pursue a sequel to "Snow White and the Huntsman" in the wake of Kristen Stewart's affair with the film's director.

Universal co-chairman Donna Langley said in a statement Wednesday that the studio is "currently exploring all options to continue the franchise" and that reports of Stewart's exit "are false."

A beleaguered Stewart got a public defense Wednesday by Academy Award-winner Jodie Foster, who co-starred with a then-11-year-old Stewart in the 2001 move "Panic Room."

Foster wrote an essay for The Daily Beast in which she blasted the "gladiator sport of celebrity culture" and claimed that if she were a young actor today she would quit before she started.

"If I had to grow up in this media culture, I don't think I could survive it emotionally," she writes. Of life as a target of paparazzi and criticism, she added: "We seldom consider the childhoods we unknowingly destroy in the process."

AP

This film image released by Universal Pictures shows actors Chris Hemsworth, from left, Kristen Stewart and director Rupert Sanders on the set of "Snow White and the Huntsman".

Since Stewart, who played Snow White in "Snow White and the Huntsman," and Rupert Sanders, its married, 41-year-old director publically apologized for a tryst caught in photographs, the future of "Snow White" has been uncertain.

The film was intended to launch a franchise, and its worldwide gross of $389.3 million was a promising enough start.

The Hollywood Reporter reported Tuesday that Universal was shifting the sequel to focus on the Huntsman character, played by Chris Hemsworth. The report claimed that Stewart was being dropped.

Universal declined to comment further on its plans.

AP

This May 16, 2012 file photo shows Actress Mayim Bialik from the show "The Big Bang Theory" attending the CBS network upfront presentation at The Tent at Lincoln Center, in New York.

Mayim Bialik injured in LA car accident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Mayim Bialik is telling fans on Twitter that she'll keep all her fingers after a car accident in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles sent her to the hospital.

Los Angeles police spokesman Richard French says the 36-year-old actress's left hand and thumb were cut severely. Bialik's husband typed for her that she's in pain but her hand will remain intact.

Police say another car made a left turn and crashed into Bialik's vehicle shortly before noon Wednesday.

The three occupants of the other car suffered minor injuries and left the scene on their own.

French says no citations were issued.

"Blossom" star Bialik has been acting since childhood and stars in "The Big Bang Theory."

She was recently nominated for an Emmy for outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series.

ABC's Jimmy Kimmel to wed his show's top writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel didn't have to look too far for his new fiancée.

The ABC funnyman is newly engaged to girlfriend Molly McNearney. His spokesman, Lewis Kay, said Wednesday that Kimmel popped the question during a recent vacation in South Africa's Kruger National Park.

McNearney is the co-head writer for the network's "Jimmy Kimmel Live." They started dating in 2009, after Kimmel's breakup with comic Sarah Silverman.

Kimmel is 44—10 years older than his fiancée. The engagement was first reported by People magazine.

AP

This Nov. 17, 2011 file photo shows late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel, left, and Molly McNearney arrive at the 16th annual GQ "Men of the Year" party in Los Angeles.

AP

This July 29, 2012 file photo shows United States' Ryan Lochte after his relay team's silver medal win in the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay final men's relay at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Olympian Ryan Lochte gets '90210' cameo this fall

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Olympic champion Ryan Lochte is testing the TV waters outside a pool.

The CW network says the swimmer will make a cameo appearance on the drama series "90210." Lochte will play a guest at a resort visited by characters Naomi and Max, played by AnnaLynne McCord and Josh Zuckerman.

In the scene, Naomi makes a fuss over seeing the handsome Olympian. The show's producers say there's no water involved, adding that Lochte "deserves a little rest on dry land."

Lochte won five medals, including two gold medals, in swimming events at the London Olympics.

The "90210" episode with Lochte will air at 9 p.m. EDT on Monday, Oct. 29.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

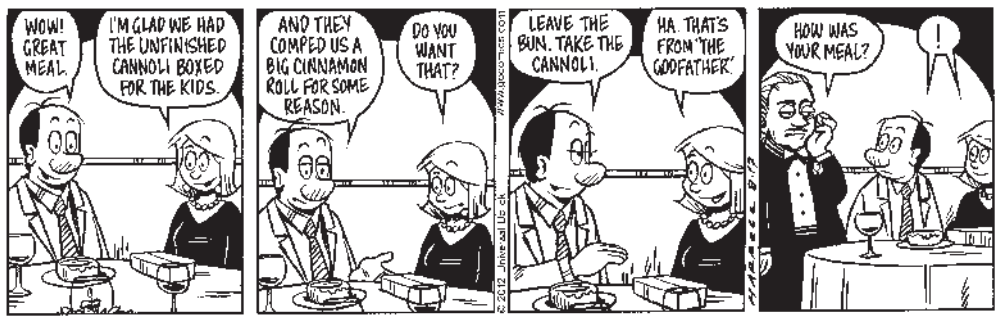
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE! THERE'S A MILLION ANGRY HORNETS COMING!
THEY'RE INSANE WITH RAGE! THEY'LL STING ANYONE IN THEIR PATH! LOUSY BUGS!
WHAT ARE THEY MAD ABOUT?
I'VE BEEN THROWING ROCKS AT THEIR NEST ALL MORNING.
A REAL FRIEND WOULDN'T TAKE THEIR SIDE!!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW! GREAT MEAL.
I'M GLAD WE HAD THE UNFINISHED CANNOLI BOXED FOR THE KIDS.
AND THEY COMPED US A BIG CINNAMON ROLL FOR SOME REASON.
DO YOU WANT THAT?
LEAVE THE BUN. TAKE THE CANNOLI.
HA. THAT'S FROM "THE GODFATHER."
HOW WAS YOUR MEAL?
! !

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lustrous black
4 Corned beef concoction
8 Into the sunset
12 Unoriginal one
13 La Scala showstopper
14 Related
15 Vitamin B-1 deficiency
17 Kindly bloke
18 Submit
19 Pi follower
21 Schedule abbr.
22 Moulin Rouge dance
26 Book of maps
29 Yank
30 Discoverer's cry
31 Seethe
32 Historic boy king
33 "Big Brother" host Julie
34 Census datum
35 Census datum
36 Ad for an upcoming broadcast
37 Chocolatey treat
39 401(k) alternative
40 Pompous sort
41 Halo
45 Opposite of 8-Across
48 Samoan port city
50 United nations
51 Stench
52 Under the weather
53 "Little Women" woman
54 Preschoolers
55 Caustic solution

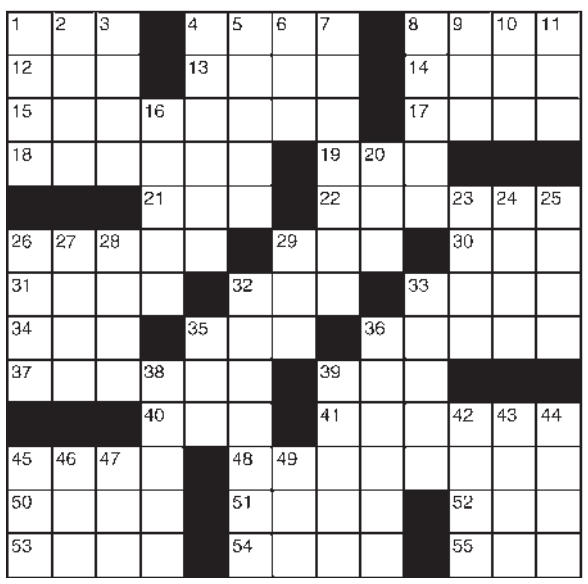
DOWN

1 Pokes
2 Duel tool
3 Gull's cousin
4 Customs
5 Gladiators' venue
6 Knightly address
7 Tonsorial task
8 Cart
9 — out a living
10 Sermon subject
11 Stick with a kick
16 Perfect
20 Crone
23 Silver salmon
24 Throat-clearing sound
25 Taboo act
26 Common rhyme scheme
27 Takeout order
28 Property claim
29 Monkey suit
32 Sawbuck
33 Muscle woe
35 "Help!"
36 Rap sheet data
38 Sheetload of cookies
39 Gold mold
42 $50, in "Monopoly"
43 Unattractive
44 Unrivaled
45 Recede
46 Hearty brew
47 Toper
49 Big fuss

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	O	P	E	■	L	A	M	P	■	A	D	S
U	P	O	N	■	A	L	E	E	■	L	A	P
D	E	L	T	A	D	A	W	N	■	P	T	A
S	N	O	O	P	Y	■	■	A	S	H	E	S
■	■	■	M	E	■	P	O	L	K	A	■	■
B	L	O	B	■	B	R	A	■	I	D	E	A
R	I	M	■	■	R	O	T	■	■	O	W	N
O	P	E	D	■	A	S	S	■	A	G	E	D
■	■	■	G	I	D	D	Y	■	R	N	■	■
A	L	A	M	O	■	■	P	A	G	O	D	A
M	O	M	■	Z	E	T	A	J	O	N	F	S
O	V	A	■	E	R	A	S	■	R	U	L	E
K	E	N	■	N	E	X	T	■	A	S	I	A

Yesterday's answer 8-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Salling, 30; Donnie Wahlberg, 43; Sean Penn, 52; Robert De Niro, 69.

Happy Birthday: Secure your future. Put your personal paperwork in order, and look for ways to invest wisely to ensure that you will not jeopardize what you have worked so hard to acquire. Relationships are changing and must be allowed to go in whatever direction feels most natural. There is no room for manipulation this year. Stick to basics. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 26, 31, 35, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get out and mingle with interesting people. Reassess your current position. Instigate a move that will improve you life and your future. Don't let a jealous friend or lover hold you back. Learn from someone older and more experienced. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Sincerity will help you get what you want. Remain calm if someone argues, and you will avoid a scene. Do what you say and you won't need to make up excuses. Love is highlighted, and affectionate gestures will exceed anything you can say. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Participate in family and work activities that will bring you closer to the people you deal with daily. Building a solid base will pay off in terms of what you receive. Stabilization and growth is apparent if you combine work and pleasure. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put force behind your actions when dealing with personal or professional partners, or you can expect to take a backseat. A creative or fresh look at an existing problem will lead to a solution, making you look like a hero. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stay mellow and be observant. Stepping back will allow you to see the big picture and come up with the most efficient way to fix a problem. A change is required and will make your life better. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't rely on others to step up and fix what's not working for you. Avoid making a scene or getting involved in a discussion that will magnify a small issue into something unmanageable. Make love, not war, and you will show your superiority. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23- Oct. 22*): Keep your eyes wide open. You will learn through your experiences. Expanding your interests will bring about opportunities and the assistance you need to fulfill your dreams. Change is inevitable and should be welcomed. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Ease into any situation you come up against. You are better off playing it safe. Reservations will be warranted. Let your intuition guide you, especially when professional decisions are imminent. Love is highlighted and will ease your stress. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Travel, adventure and learning should all be wrapped up into one. A change of scenery or sharing with people from different backgrounds or mindsets will help you make wise choices that will enable you to achieve your personal goals. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Avoid taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Make suggestions, but let others do the legwork. Put energy and time into your own goals and ideas. A personal partnership will help you get back to basics and enjoy life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make a decision regarding your home, family and commitment to actions that will help improve your life. Larger quarters or altering your current living situation will be beneficial. Consider starting or expanding a home-based business. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't wait until it's too late to make a move. Assess your situation, protect your position and expand your interests. Embrace change, if that's what's required to get what you want. Compromise now can lead to gains later. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, humorous and popular. You are aggressive and progressive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9								7
	7			5		1	9	
	3	4				8		
			6		3			
	1						2	
			7		9			
		7				9	3	
	8	6		4			7	
1								2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	1	3	5	7	6	2	4
3	7	2	4	6	8	9	5	1
5	6	4	9	1	2	8	3	7
9	1	6	5	3	4	7	8	2
4	8	5	7	2	6	1	9	3
7	2	3	8	9	1	4	6	5
2	4	8	6	7	3	5	1	9
6	3	9	1	4	5	2	7	8
1	5	7	2	8	9	3	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SOUTH AFRICA'S'S BLUE TRAIN **Solution: 7 letters**

L	D	M	A	R	B	L	E	N	S	U	I	T	E	C
E	L	O	B	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	D	A
C	O	U	N	I	Q	U	E	N	I	D	S	H	E	R
I	G	N	A	B	U	K	A	B	U	N	T	V	E	P
V	X	T	Z	I	M	B	A	B	W	E	I	T	P	E
R	G	A	M	E	R	S	N	O	B	C	A	I	S	T
E	R	I	R	U	F	W	T	A	T	C	P	U	I	E
S	E	N	D	E	O	F	Z	O	L	A	A	R	N	D
C	A	S	H	T	A	I	R	O	T	E	R	P	T	N
E	T	C	E	L	L	I	G	R	I	S	K	S	E	S
N	K	P	L	E	A	O	O	Ⓦ	L	E	S	D	R	E
I	A	S	T	K	R	U	G	Ⓔ	R	T	R	E	I	T
C	R	R	E	S	T	H	G	Ⓘ	S	A	A	O	O	I
R	O	D	N	E	L	P	S	Ⓥ	G	R	C	H	R	U
P	O	T	S	I	R	U	O	T	R	A	V	E	L	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Sauteed

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Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 23, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Hernandez tosses perfect game in Seattle's win

SEATTLE (AP)—His arms outstretched to the sky, about to be swallowed by anxious teammates who ignored him for most of nine innings, Felix Hernandez had finally done it.

Ever since his major league debut as a baby-faced 19-year-old with wild curly hair and a hat that never sat straight, he had chased perfection.

Now King Felix had his crowning achievement. No hits, no runs, nobody allowed on base.

"It was always in my mind, every game. `I need to throw a perfect game.' For every pitcher, I think it's in their mind," Hernandez said. "Today it happened and it's something special. I don't have any words to explain this. This is pretty amazing. It doesn't happen every day."

Hernandez pitched the Seattle Mariners' first perfect game and the 23rd in baseball history, overpowering the Tampa Bay Rays in a brilliant 1-0 victory Wednesday.

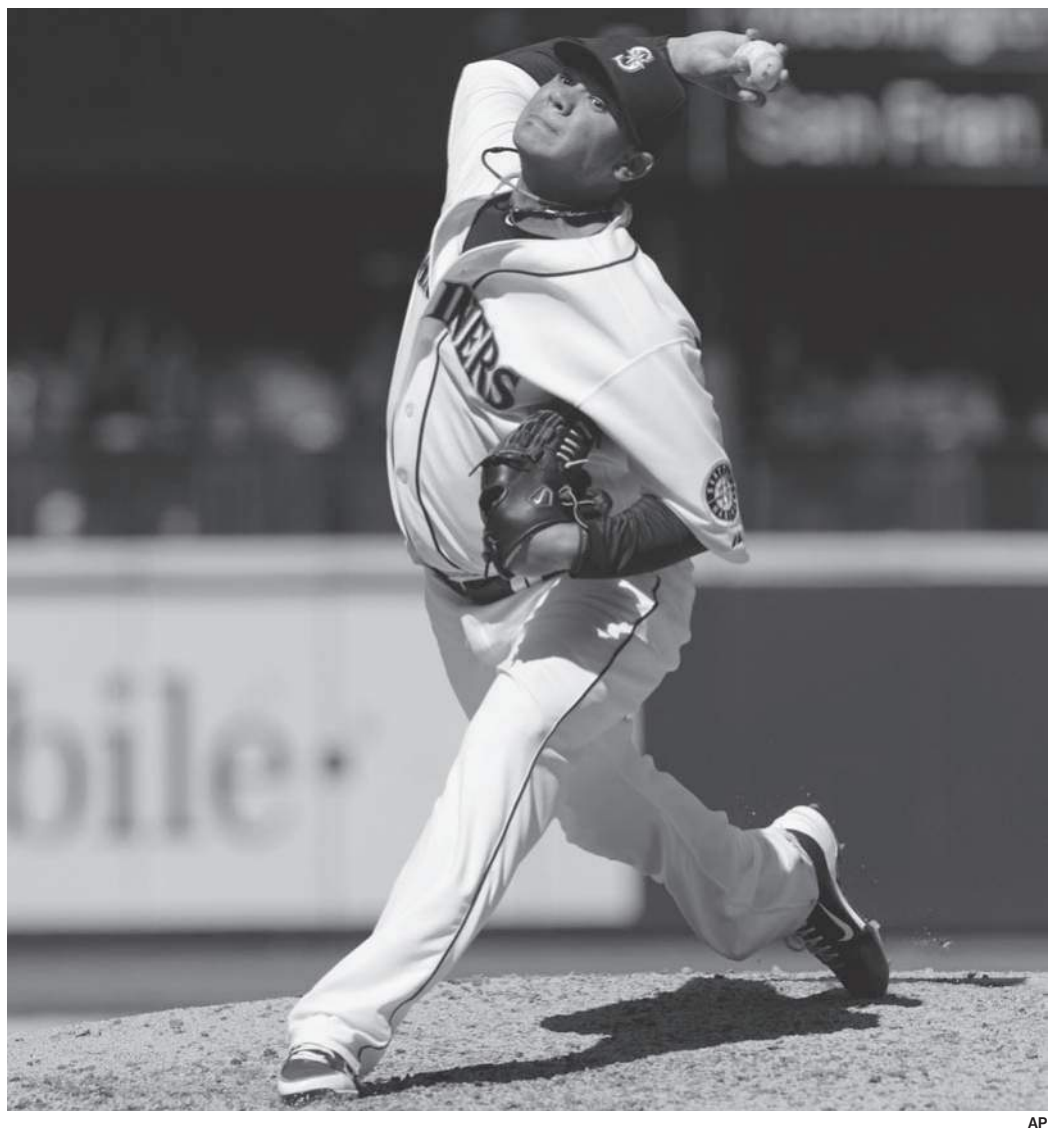
The 2010 AL Cy Young Award winner has never hid his desire for pitching perfection. For a franchise on its way to an 11th straight season without a playoff appearance, Hernandez is the one constant keeping fans interested in Mariners baseball.

He's revered in the Pacific Northwest, not only for his performance on the mound, but for his willingness to stay. When he could have waited and sought a bigger payday elsewhere, Hernandez signed an extension in 2010 that will keep him in Seattle through the 2014 season.

So when the "King's Court" of yellow-shirted fans in the left-field corner began chanting "Let's Go Felix!" to start the eighth inning, it spread through the entire stadium. The crescendo of screams and yells finally reached its pinnacle at 3:02 p.m. PDT when Hernandez threw a called third strike past Sean Rodriguez to ignite the celebration.

Riding down in a crowded elevator after the game, Seattle general manager Jack Zduriencik jokingly held his cellphone to his ear and said "no, we're not trading Felix."

It was the third perfect game in baseball this season - a first - joining gems by Chicago's Philip Humber against the Mariners in April and San Francisco's Matt Cain versus Houston in June. More than half of all perfectos—12—have come in the last 25 seasons.



AP

Seattle Mariners pitcher Felix Hernandez throws the final pitch of the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012, in Seattle. Hernandez tossed a perfect game in the Mariners 1-0 win.

Yankees 3, Rangers 2

In New York, Freddy Garcia put in the third straight dominant performance by New York's starting pitchers, leading the Yankees to a 3-2 win over the Texas Rangers.

Garcia (7-5) matched David Phelps and Hiroki Kuroda with another stellar start. He gave up only four hits in 6 2-3 innings as the Yankees notched a seventh win in eight games, including three in a row over the Rangers.

Orioles 5, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Baltimore sent 10 batters to the plate during a five-run sixth inning that rallied the Orioles to a 5-3 win over the Boston Red Sox.

Baltimore trailed 2-0 before getting to Boston pitcher Aaron Cook (3-6), who sparked the turnaround with a throwing error on a potential inning-ending double-play. The miscue led to three unearned runs.

White Sox 9, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Adam Dunn hit his major league-leading 34th home run, while Dayan Viciedo and DeWayne Wise also connected as Chicago beat Toronto.

White Sox starter Gavin Floyd (9-9) allowed three earned runs in six innings to snap a three-start winless streak. He had an 0-3 record with and 8.25 ERA in three career starts at Toronto, but turned that around.

Angels 8, Indians 4

In Anaheim, Mike Trout and Chris Iannetta homered to help Los Angeles build a big lead en route to beating Cleveland.

Angels starter Ervin Santana (6-10) allowed one run and one one walk in seven innings. Santana had been 1-8 in his career against the Indians—the only win being a no-hitter in 2001—but breezed to victory on Wednesday.

Tigers 5, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Miguel Cabrera became the first player in Tigers history to reach 30 home runs in five straight seasons as Detroit downed Minnesota.

Cabrera's opposite-field solo shot in the first opened the scoring. He also singled in the fifth off Cole De Vries (2-4) to push his majors-leading total to 103 RBIs.

Royals 3, Athletics 2

In Kansas City, Will Smith pitched seven strong innings to guide Kansas City to a tight win over Oakland.

Smith (4-4), a 23-year-old rookie, limited the A's to two runs while striking out five and walking one.

Nationals 6, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Washington's Stephen Strasburg outpitched Tim Lincecum in face-off of National League aces, leading the Nationals to a 6-4 win over the San Francisco Giants.

Strasburg (14-5) didn't have to face All-Star Game MVP Melky Cabrera, who was suspended for 50 games earlier in the day for a positive testosterone test.

Dodgers 9, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Clayton Kershaw won his fourth consecutive start as Los Angeles beat Pittsburgh and moved into sole first place in the NL West.

Kershaw (11-6) allowed three runs in eight innings with eight strikeouts and no walks. He also contributed at the plate, hitting two singles.

Reds 6, Mets 1

In Cincinnati, Scott Rolen and Todd Frazier hit back-to-back home runs to power Cincinnati past New York and to its fifth straight win.

Reds starter Mike Leake (5-7) pitched his second complete game of the season. He faced only three batters over the minimum, issuing no walks. He also had an RBI single.

Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 2

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright allowed two runs over six innings, steering St. Louis past Arizona.

Wainwright (11-10) is 4-0 with a 2.04 ERA over his past five starts.

David Freese and Allen Craig hit homers for the Cardinals, who are seven in a row against the Diamondbacks dating to last year.

Braves 6, Padres 1

In Atlanta, Dan Uggla's three-run homer in the third inning was enough for Atlanta to beat San Diego.

Uggla is hitting only .215 but has homered in two straight games for the Braves, who remained 4 1-2 games behind Washington in the NL East.

Marlins 9, Phillies 2

In Miami, Greg Dobbs drove in Miami's first run in 31 innings then hit a go-ahead homer in the sixth to help the Marlins beat Philadelphia.

Miami ended a franchise-record scoring drought, including three consecutive shutout losses, when Dobbs hit an RBI single in the fourth. His homer put Miami ahead 3-2.

Rockies 7, Brewers 6

In Denver, Tyler Colvin hit a two-run double down the first base line in the ninth inning, rallying Colorado to a win over Milwaukee.

With one out in the ninth, Wilin Rosario hit a single off Jim Henderson (0-2) and Eric Young Jr., who homered earlier in the game, also singled to put runners at the corners.

Cubs 7, Astros 2

In Chicago, David DeJesus homered twice and tied a career best with four hits, leading Chicago over Houston.

Cubs starter Justin Germano (2-2) allowed two runs over 6 1-3 innings. He struck out six and walked one.

Cabrera suspended for 50 games for positive drug test

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Melky Cabrera's MVP-like year is over—at least for the regular season.

The San Francisco outfielder was suspended 50 games Wednesday following a positive test for testosterone, putting an abrupt end to what had been a remarkable regular season and throwing the Giants' playoff hopes into doubt.

"Ultimately, it was just a bad decision," catcher Buster Posey said.

Cabrera leads the National League with 159 hits and is second in batting average behind Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen. Cabrera's penalty was the first for a high-profile player since last year's NL MVP, Ryan Braun, had his suspension overturned by an arbitrator last winter.

"My positive test was the result of my use of a substance I should not have used," Cabrera said in a statement released by the players' association. "I accept my suspension under the Joint Drug Program and I will try to move on with my life. I am deeply sorry for my mistake and I apologize to my teammates, to the San Francisco Giants organization and to the fans for letting them down."

The suspension would extend into the playoffs if the Giants advance.

"It happened, and now we move on," right fielder Hunter Pence said. "I know the program and I know they test us, and if we test positive we get a suspension. That's what happened. And now we play with what we've got."

Cabrera is batting .346 with 11 home runs and 60 RBIs in his first season with San Francisco and is five hits shy of 1,000 in his big league career. Flashing bright orange spikes, he singled and hit a two-run homer off Texas pitcher Matt Harrison last month in the National League's 8-0 win in the All-Star game, earning MVP honors for the game and securing homefield advantage for the World Series.

"When I give up a homer, it's a bad pitch. I don't think it really helps them hit home runs or singles, doubles or triples," Harrison said. "It was a bad pitch over the plate. But it's going to cost him now. ... He's having to pay the consequences for it now. At least he was honest and came forward about it and said he took something he wasn't supposed to do."

Cabrera is set to become a free agent after this season, so he might have cost himself a big pay day, too.

"It's disappointing. Obviously, Melky means a lot to all of us, was part of our championship and provided some really good moments here," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "It's something that everyone has to deal with and it's something baseball is trying to stay away from and it happened."

Cabrera could still win the NL batting title. He has 501 plate appearances, one less than the minimum required to win a batting championship for a player on a team playing 162 games. However, under 10.22(a) of the Official Baseball Rules, he would win the batting title if an extra hitless at-bat is added to his average and it remains higher than that of any other qualifying player.

He will miss the final 45 games of the regular season and serve the remainder of the suspension at the start of next season or during the postseason, depending on whether the Giants make the playoffs and how far they advance. If the Giants wanted him to become active in the middle of a playoff series, they would have to play a man short from the start of the series until the suspension ends because rosters can't be altered mid-series.

"We were extremely disappointed," the Giants said in a statement. "We fully support Major League Baseball's policy and its efforts to eliminate performance enhancing drugs from our game."

Cabrera became the second Giants player to receive a drug suspension this season. Reliever Guillermo Mota was penalized for 100 games in May, becoming just the third major league player disciplined twice for positive drug tests. Mota is eligible to return Aug. 28, barring rainouts, and began a minor league rehabilitation assignment Tuesday with the Giants' rookie team in Arizona.

Nadal pulls out of US Open with knee injury

This Sept. 12, 2011 file photo shows Rafael Nadal of Spain reacting during the championship match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. Nadal has withdrawn from the 2012 U.S. Open tournament.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Nadal's Grand Slam count will stay stuck at 11 for now, sidetracked by another knee problem.

The third-ranked Spaniard withdrew from the U.S. Open on Wednesday. Tendinitis has kept him out of action since his stunning loss at Wimbledon in late June.

The injury already forced him out of the London Olympics, where he was supposed to defend his title and carry Spain's flag in the opening ceremony.

"I am very sad to announce that I am not ready to play the US Open in NY. Thanks to my fans for their support and specially, the new yorkers," Nadal wrote on his Twitter account.

Nadal is still only 26, but the withdrawals raise questions about the future of a player who has had recurring knee problems in the past.

His 11 Grand Slam titles include a record seven on the red clay of the French Open, yet his hard-charging, hard-hitting style of play takes a toll on his body, particularly his knees.

Roger Federer, in contrast, has played in every Grand Slam tournament since the start of 2000, a streak of 51 in a row.

"Well, not a surprise, because I wrote him and he told me it wasn't looking good at all," Federer said after his opening match in Ohio in the Western & Southern Open. "I kind of knew, saw it coming. But obviously when it's official, it's disappointing for tennis, there's no doubt about it. I would love to have him in the draw. In particular, sort of the 12 days before the Open, you figure he might still have time to fix what he has to fix to get ready. If he pulls out that early before the Open, it must be something serious.

"That's what is sort of scary. There is obviously the whole debate going on if he is going to come back for this year. I hope he will. He's definitely got some more weeks off now because of it. I hope in hindsight this is a very smart decision by him. But it's obviously a big blow and disappointing news for the tennis world."

In 2009, Nadal missed Wimbledon because of aching knees shortly after falling in the round of 16 at the French Open - the only time in eight appearances he hasn't won at Roland Garros. He was just the second men's champion in 35 years to decline to defend his title at the All England Club.

But Nadal eventually came back stronger than ever from that layoff. After failing to reach the final at the 2009 U.S. Open and 2010 Australian Open, he won the French to start a run of three straight major titles, capped by completing the career Grand Slam at Flushing Meadows.

Nadal's absence immediately leaves a trio of heavy favorites at the last Grand Slam event of the year: defending champion Novak Djokovic; five-time U.S. Open winner and currently top-ranked Federer; and 2008 U.S. Open runner-up Andy Murray, who won the gold medal in singles at the London Games by beating Federer in the final.

"It's obviously a shame. I like Rafa a lot as a friend," Murray said after winning at the Western & Southern Open. "Yeah, I'm disappointed for him. But I think for tennis and also a major competition, it's a huge benefit when you have the top players playing.

"It's obviously tough for him. He's had trouble with his knees in the past. So I hope he can rest, he doesn't come back too early, and gets them fixed so he can get back to playing his best tennis."

Nadal lost in the U.S. Open final to Djokovic last year, part of a stretch of three straight defeats to the Serb in championship matches at major tournaments. But he seemed to be closing the gap, and at Roland Garros in June, he beat Djokovic in the final for his record seventh title there.

"My excitement is always the same when I am approaching any Grand Slam. Obviously it's the biggest tournaments we have in sport," Djokovic said after winning his match at Cincinnati. "Yes, the fact is that tennis is going to lose a little bit because of Rafa not being there and playing, because he's somebody that has made a history of this sport. We all know how good he is and how popular he is."

The good times didn't last long for Nadal after his historic win at the French. On June 28, he was upset by 100th-ranked Lukas Rosol in the second round at Wimbledon. He hasn't played since.

Shortly after that loss, Nadal canceled a scheduled charity match against Djokovic in Spain, citing tendon problems in his left knee. He also pulled out of the hard-court warm-up tournaments in Toronto and Cincinnati.

The two-week U.S. Open begins play Aug. 27.

"Rafa has informed us that he will not be ready to compete at the U.S. Open this year and has withdrawn from the tournament," tournament director David Brewer said in a statement issued Wednesday. "We hope to see him back on the court soon and look forward to his return to New York next year."

Bynum receives rock star welcome in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—He heard the roar from hundreds of Philadelphia 76ers fans chanting ''An-drew By-num! An-drew By-num!" the moment he stepped into the National Constitution Center.

Andrew Bynum instantly felt at home in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed his first days in the city so much, Bynum made it clear he wouldn't mind playing in that No. 33 Sixers jersey for more than a season.

''My first experiences here have been so great," Bynum said, ''I'm really leaning toward making this my home.

With that proclamation, Sixers fans erupted.

The superstar the organization and their fans craved since Allen Iverson split actually loved them back.

Imagine the sounds he'll hear after some clutch fourth-quarter buckets over a deep playoff run.

Wearing a Sixers T-shirt, Bynum made his first appearance Wednesday since he was acquired last week from the Los Angeles Lakers as part of a four-team megadeal. Former Philadelphia All-Star Andre Iguodala landed in Denver and Orlando shipped Dwight Howard to the Lakers as part of the trades.

The Sixers scrapped the usual ho-hum press conference and turned Bynum's arrival into a full-blown pep rally that included moving the location from their arena to just a few hundred feet away from the Liberty Bell. The event was open to the public and fans arrived early to greet Bynum and Jason Richardson - and plunk down $30 bucks for some hot-off-the-presses Bynum T-shirts.

''It makes me super-excited," said Bynum, who never stopped smiling.

The Sixers have every reason to feel giddy over this deal and what this means for the long-term future of the franchise. For years, Philadelphia has been mired in the middle of the Eastern Conference, only busting out last season under new ownership to advance to the second round for the first time in nine years. But the glow of that achievement soon faded once management realized the team had maxed out with veterans Iguodala, Elton Brand, and Lou Williams. Iguodala was traded, Brand was amnestied and Williams was allowed to walk in free-agency, freeing up some needed dollars to make a move this big.

Bynum is the All-Star, the franchise player, expected to soon help the Sixers win their first championship since 1983.

Only 24, the New Jersey native won two championships with the Lakers. But in Los Angeles, the offense ran through Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol.

Bynum is The Man for the Sixers.

''Obviously, there's a lot of pressure," Bynum said. ''I want to be ready for it."

Consider this: Until last week, Kwame Brown was listed as Philadelphia's starting center.

That's called an upgrade.

But once the hoopla and ''Beat L.A.!" chants quieted down, two questions loomed in the building that honors the U.S. Constitution: Would Bynum put his John Hancock on a possible-five year contract extension; and how will his achy knees respond to treatment next month in Germany?

Bynum is set to make $16.1 million this season in the final year of his deal. If he waits until after the season, Bynum can sign a five-year deal worth nearly $102 million. No other team could offer Bynum as many years or as much money.

''I enjoy Philly, I'm from here, I don't see anything wrong," Bynum said. ''I don't see any problem why I wouldn't want to stay here."

Bynum is set to have injections of plasma-rich platelets that supposedly stimulate healing in arthritis-affected areas in both of his knees. Bryant, his former teammate, has credited the therapy with dramatic improvement in his own troublesome right knees and an injured left ankle.

Sixers president Rod Thorn said Bynum and his surgically repaired knees checked out fine after a lengthy physical on Tuesday.

''You've got to take calculated risks sometimes," Thorn said. ''Players of his level don't come on the market every day."

Bynum is coming off his best NBA season after averaging career highs with 18.7 points and 11.8 rebounds while making his first All-Star team, starting for the West. He was the NBA's third-leading rebounder and 20th-leading scorer, while also ranking sixth in the league with 1.93 blocked shots per game.

Woods, McIlroy to stage duel in China

NEW YORK (AP)—Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy will square off in China this fall in a one-day exhibition.

Woods and McIlroy are to play an 18-hole match at Lake Jinsha International Golf Club on Oct. 29, the Monday after the top two players in the world ranking compete in different Asian tournaments.

Mark Steinberg at Excel Sports Management, the agent for Woods, says the exhibition has been in the works for a couple of months. He described it as customer entertainment.

The timing could not be better. McIlroy won the PGA Championship on Sunday, boosting comparisons with Woods. They are the only two players to win multiple majors by more than eight shots over the last 35 years. McIlroy won his second major at a slightly younger age than when Woods won the second of his 14 majors.

"I'm sure this gives it a little more pop," Steinberg said. "Rory has moved to No. 1 in the world, and clearly they are the two most recognizable names in golf."

Woods will be playing the CIMB Classic in Malaysia on Oct. 25-28, while McIlroy will be competing in the Volvo Masters in Shanghai.

These 18-hole exhibitions are nothing new for Woods, who played David Duval in a Monday night match on network TV in 1999 when they were battling for No. 1 in the world. McIlroy and Woods played together in Abu Dhabi to start the year, and they will be in the same group at The Barclays next week when the FedEx Cup playoffs begin. But unless they are paired in Ryder Cup singles—a blind draw—the "Duel at Lake Jinsha" will be their first time going head-to-head.

"It should be a lot of fun," McIlroy said in a telephone interview with Golf Channel on Wednesday. "First time I've really ever done something like this with Tiger.

US beats Mexico in Mexico for 1st time

MEXICO CITY (AP)—After 75 years of frustration in Mexico, the U.S. national team finally won a soccer game at its southern neighbor and regional rival.

Dominated for most of the night at one of soccer's most intimidating venues, the Americans beat the Mexicans 1-0 in an exhibition Wednesday night behind Michael Orozco Fiscal's goal in the 80th minute and Tim Howard's late sprawling saves.

"The goal was for the U.S. fans and the whole U.S. We made history," said Orozco Fiscal, a 26-year-old defender from Orange, Calif., whose parents were born in Mexico.

A trio of second-half substitutes created the goal.

Brek Shea cut inside Severo Meza on the left flank and crossed to Terrence Boyd at the top of the 6-yard box. With his back to the goal, Boyd took a touch with his left foot and with his right made a quick backheel pass to Orozco Fiscal, who with his left foot poked it from 3 yards past goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa and defender Jorge Torres Nilo for his first international goal.

Orozco Fiscal, who plays in Mexico for San Luis, was a member of the 2008 U.S. Olympic team but hasn't established himself with the varsity.

He entered in the 77th minute for his fifth international appearance and first since October. Shea, back with the team for the first time since February following a season of turmoil in Major League Soccer, came on a minute later. Boyd, a German-American who made his U.S. debut in February, had entered to start the second half.

"Just happy we won and made history," Shea said. "It's something we haven't done in a long time. Just to be on the roster is cool."

Howard, in a snazzy gray-on-white uniform, twice preserved the lead. He moved to his right on a Javier Hernandez shot in the 85th, then sprawled to his left when it deflected off Maurice Edu. Four minutes later, he extended left to paw away a 4-yard downward header by Chicharito.

"I think it's huge. It's huge for I think all American fans, it's huge for the team, and it's historic," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "We were very well aware that we've never won here at the Azteca Stadium. This is an amazing experience for the all the players. We told them before the game: This moment is for you, go and grab it. We are all aware that it was a lot, a lot of work."

The U.S. had been 0-23-1 against El Tri in 75 years of games at Mexico, including 0-19-1 in the thin air at altitude in Mexico City - where they had been outscored 81-14. Azteca, with loud, passionate fans, is a difficult site for road teams.

Mexico's Jorge Torres, back, challenges U.S. Danny Williams during a friendly soccer match in Mexico City, Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012.

"You can shrivel up or you can accept it," Howard said. "We deserved a little bit of luck, and we got it tonight."

Mexico outshot the U.S. 15-6 and had a 10-0 advantage in corner kicks. But the Americans came away with their second big win this year, following February's first-ever victory over Italy, in a friendly at Genoa.

"Tim Howard kept us in the game I don't know how many times," said Klinsmann, who has been trying to change the defensive mindset the American had at times under Bob Bradley. "It's a mental aspect of it."

With the European clubs seasons getting under way, the U.S. used a half-strength roster and a makeshift central defense.

Mexico also was below strength following the Olympics. El Tri dominated possession but failed to connect on several open shots as the Americans paired Edu and Geoff Cameron in the center of their back line in the absence of Carlos Bocanegra, Clarence Goodson and Oguchi Onyewu.

"For me, it's a game that I grew up watching," Cameron said of the U.S.-Mexico rivalry. "To be a part of a win for the first time speaks for itself."

The game marked the start of the Americans' second year under Klinsmann, who replaced Bradley last summer after Mexico overcame a two-goal deficit to win the CONCACAF Gold Cup final, 4-2.

The U.S. figures to have a lineup closer to full strength for a pair of World Cup qualifiers against Jamaica next month, on the road on Sept. 7 and at Columbus, Ohio, four days later. Mexico plays Costa Rica on those same days.

"We know we have to improve in many, many elements," Klinsmann said. "We have to keep the ball longer. We have to create more chances. We have to do a lot of work still. But I think this gives us a lot of confidence."

While the U.S. eliminated Mexico in the second round of the 2002 World Cup in South Korea, El Tri has improved in recent years, winning the Under-17 World Cup in 2005 and 2011 and adding the title in the Olympics, which is for Under-23 teams plus three overage players. Mexico is up to 18th in the world rankings, while the U.S. is down to 36th.

The game came at an awkward time for players, many focused on their clubs' season openers this weekend.

"It was very difficult in high altitude, with many of them flying in from Europe two days ago," Klinsmann said. "But we had a plan, and we tried to execute that plan and getting that win here - I mean it's quite enjoyable."

Hoe Lokahi Regatta pushed back to Aug. 25-26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Female members of the Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club, front, paddle their way back to the shore during a race early this year at Kilili Beach.

The Hoe Lokahi Canoe Club has moved the August Regatta to Aug. 25 and August 26 at Kilili Beach.

Originally scheduled for this weekend, next week's event features the men, women, and mixed 500-meter, and 1500-meter sprints, followed by long distance races.

Other paddling groups, such as the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club, Marianas Paddlers Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers, will also join next week's races that will start at 8am.

Then the men's 10-kilometer and women's 8-km long distance events on Sept. 29 and 30 close out Team Hoe Lokahi's training schedule.

The Hoe Lokahi Club is a non-profit organization created in 2010 and it competed in the Micronesian Cup held in Guam last year. "Hoe Lokahi" is a Hawaiian term that translates into "paddle with harmony."

This year's Micronesian Cup will be held on Saipan on Oct. 27 and 28.

For more information, contact Leilani Nielsen at beavymana@gmail.com. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

NMIVA to squeeze in clinics in fall practice sessions

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's bi-weekly practice sessions for the fall season resumed last Saturday and will run through Nov. 28 at beachside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The sessions will be held Saturday mornings from 8am to 10am and on Wednesdays from 4pm to 6pm at Fiesta.

During the sessions, CNMI national beach volleyball members will also be holding free clinics for players ages eight and up who want to learn the fundamentals of the game.

While the emphasis is mainly focused on beach volleyball, the skills taught provide a solid foundation that transfers to indoor or hard court formats of the sport as well.

Other benefits include learning proper warm-up techniques, practice drills, and strength building, and improving overall fitness.

Games will be also take place during the clinics and organizers are planning to hold tournaments on the last Saturday of each month throughout the fall season or on Sept. 29, Oct, 27, and Nov. 24.

Coaching and necessary equipment to run the clinics will be provided. Players are expected to be on time with their own water or sportsdrink. Sunscreen and a hat are also highly recommended.

Meanwhile, NMIVA is looking for more coaches to help conduct practices and work with the different age groups. For more information, email CNMI coach Russ Quinn at saipanruss@yahoo.com. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth players compete in a NMIVA-organized tournament early this year.

MIEKO

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XTERRA races this month. She finished second in XTERRA Brazil on Aug. 4 and won XTERRA Portland last Saturday.

Carey only raced in a local MTB event last week and is tapering off from training after surviving the grueling Kaike Triathlon in Japan last month.

"I am resting my body after that tough race in Kaike and I am recovering well. I have a minor leg injury, but I am undergoing therapy and my legs are getting better every day after getting treatment from Shelley," Carey said.

The Saipan pro added that when she slowed down from training several weeks ago, she was able to watch the Olympic Games and was inspired by the Olympians' perseverance.

Carey said she will be like the Olympians when she competes in Japan. She will push herself harder, face all challenges, and aim for a best time.

The 34-year-old triathlete's best time in the 1.2-kilometer swim, 25K mountain bike race, and 10K run is 3:00:16, which she posted in 2009 when she first won XTERRA Japan against Australian pro Kylee Lock. In 2010 and 2011, she timed in at 3:03:00 and 3:00:25, respectively.

"I will enjoy the race in Marunuma next weekend and will have my family and Saipan friends in mind when I cross the finish line," said Carey, who will miss her family's support in Marunuma, as her sister is scheduled to give birth on the race day.

"This race is for the new baby in the family," said Carey, who thanked Gold's Gym, IT&E, Brabu Pharmacy, and Bike Pro for supporting her races.

4 GET

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U18 and U14 first place trophies, respectively.

Wild Bill's won the men's championship against Godfather's, IT&E, Shirley's, and Go Green Team, while Shirley's prevailed in the women's division versus IT&E Awesome, Mellow Yellow, Wild Bill's Xerox, and Baked Girls.

Astig Futsal bested Mean Machine, IT&E, and the Thundercats in the boys U18, while IT&E ruled the two-way battle for the boys U14 crown against the IP&E-sponsored Astig Futsal.

Despite losing to IT&E in the boys U14, Astig Futsal will not go home empty-handed tonight, as the latter will get the Fair Play plum. Mellow Yellow, Go Green Team, and Astig Futsal will take the same award in the women's, men's, and U18 divisions.

LIZAMA

From Page 32

los Ah Ching and Kiribati's Lataisi Mwea, but Lizama survived the stalemate and joined Pool A top finisher Krishan Raju of Fiji in the semis after earning a 5-5 sets won/sets loss record. Ching and Mwea were booted out after recording 4-4 and 4-5 slates, respectively.

Lizama had earlier won only one game in his first three matches and seemed headed for an early exit, but Ching and Mwea's losses last Wednesday kept the CNMI's semis bid alive.

In the semis, Lizama was paired against Pool B winner Jake Bergman, who swept the former, 6-0, 6-0, to advance to the finals. Raju defeated the Solomon Islands' Graham Mani in the other semis tiff, 7-5, 6-2, and the former went on to down Bergman in the finals, 7-6 (5), 5-3. Lizama battled Mani in the third place game and also lost yesterday's consolation match, 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.

The 11-year-old Lizama was the second CNMI bet to march into the semifinals of the Oceania Plate, as Tammy Ackerman had earlier secured a Final Four seat in the Senior Girls.

Ackerman swept her Pool A assignments and with her 4-0 record, she gained the top-seeding in the playoffs and was paired against New Caledonia's Olanza Matuu. Ackerman then drew first blood in the semis match, 6-1, but missed the finals after Matuu won the last two sets, 6-4, 6-4. The CNMI net went on to save third place after cruising past Fiji's Ruby Coffin, 6-0, 6-3. Samoa Anastasia Tapusoa, who topped Coffin in the other semis pairing, 6-1, 6-1, ruled the event after edging Matuu in a three-set finale, 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

Ackerman's teammates, Isabel Heras and Carol Lee, also competed in the Senior Girls and finished sixth and seventh, respectively. Heras won her first consolation game against Samoa's Loloma Ripley, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1, before bowing to Palau's Ayana Rengiil, 6-0, 6-1. Lee first bowed to Rengiil, 6-4, 3-6, 0-6, but saved the No. seventh spot in the 10-player field after defeating Ripley, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Duplicating Heras' feat was Christian Cajigan, who was entered in the Senior Boys. Cajigan missed the semis and was relegated to the consolation draw where he thwarted Tahiti's Michael Emery, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-2, before losing to Guam's Christian Penafiel, 2-6, 0-6.

CFL

From Page 32

ers are still waiting to receive proper footwear and other equipment so practices with full pads are probably not going to commence this month. However, the group does plan on holding some full-scale scrimmages rain or shine upon receipt of their gear.

In related news, the Oct. 20 opener of the three-game series between the CNMI players and the Philippines bets may have to be pushed back because the Punishers players are still waiting for their visas. However, the CNMI's second date with the Punishers in the Philippines on Nov. 10 is still on. The Commonwealth's Dec. 1 home match against Guam is also still a go.

CFL said the goal post uprights still need to be installed for the CNMI's home match, but according to Blanco, the field will be ready by game time.

Contact John Blanco at johnsblanco@gmail.com for more information.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	70	47	.598	—
Baltimore	64	53	.547	6
Tampa Bay	63	54	.538	7
Boston	57	61	.483	13½
Toronto	55	62	.470	15

Central Division

Chicago	64	52	.552	—
Detroit	63	55	.534	2
Cleveland	54	64	.458	11
Kansas City	51	65	.440	13
Minnesota	50	67	.427	14½

West Division

Texas	67	49	.578	—
Oakland	61	55	.526	6
Los Angeles	62	56	.525	6
Seattle	55	64	.462	13½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	73	45	.619	—
Atlanta	68	49	.581	4½
New York	55	62	.470	17½
Philadelphia	54	63	.462	18½
Miami	53	65	.449	20

Central Division

Cincinnati	71	46	.607	—
Pittsburgh	64	53	.547	7
St. Louis	64	53	.547	7
Milwaukee	52	64	.448	18½
Chicago	46	70	.397	24½
Houston	39	80	.328	33

West Division

Los Angeles	65	53	.551	—
San Francisco	64	54	.542	1
Arizona	58	59	.496	6½
San Diego	52	67	.437	13½
Colorado	44	71	.383	19½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Art of War 7 Winners

PHOTOS by WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Winners pose for a group photo during the Art Of War 7 awards presentation at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

Featherweight gold medal winner Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, center, poses with silver medalist Scotty Eclavea, right, and bronze winner Robert Alvarez.

Bantamweight gold medalist Vince "The Clinch" Masga, center, pose with Guam's Kenji Okiyama, left and Nathan Chase.

Middleweight gold medalist Martin "Ning-Bo Slice" Cepeda is flanked by silver winner Darren Robinson, right, and bronze finisher Eric Gateman.

Welterweight champion Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse, center, poses for a photo with runner-up Rey Kim, right, and third placer Kimo Lizama.

Marianas Elite heavyweight Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial, center, poses for a photo with Trench Tech silver winner Mylo Lassiter, right, and bronze medalist Jose Mafnas.

Trench Tech Purebred lightweight gold medal winner, Shane "Pika-Boo" Alvarez, center, is flanked by bronze medalist Fasi Jesse, left, and silver medalist Vince Masga.

Hernandez tosses perfect game in Seattle's win
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nadal pulls out of US Open with knee injury
PAGE 28

Mieko vs Shonny in XTERRA Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan pro Mieko Carey will leave the island on Monday to compete in the 2012 XTERRA Japan.

Carey will be gunning for her fourth straight XTERRA Japan crown and will have 2010 XTERRA World champion Shonny Vanlandingham as the biggest stumbling block in her bid to extend her reign in the annual competition in Marunuma, Gunma Prefecture.

Though she considered the American pro as a threat in the Aug. 25 triathlon tournament, Carey is excited to see Vanlandingham again and race against her.

"Shonny will be there and I am happy to race with her again and with my other XTERRA Japan friends," Carey said.

Carey raced against Vanlandingham last year during the XTERRA Saipan Championship with the latter finally winning the Crown Jewel after stunning seven-time champion Renata Bucher. The Colorado native then sustained an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury in her knee in September 2011 and was forced to miss the 2011 XTERRA World Championships in Hawaii and a couple of early races this year, including the 2012 XTERRA Saipan.

Vanlandingham just returned to triathlon in the second quarter of 2012 and competed in back-to-back weekend

See MIEKO on Page 30

Saipan pro Mieko Carey, seen here pedaling up to the Bird Island Lookout during the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon, will be competing in the 2012 XTERRA Japan next weekend.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lizama sneaks into semis of Fiji tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Luther Lizama managed to steal a semis ticket in the ITF Oceania Plate 2012.

Lizama prevailed in a three-way tie for the second and last semis berth in Pool B of the Junior Boys division of the tournament played at the Nadi Sports Club in Nadi, Fiji. He finished the pool play with an even 2-2 card, forcing a deadlock for the No. 2 spot after slipping past Vanuatu's Ben Pechan in three sets last Wednesday, 4-6, 6-4, 4-2.

Also posting a 2-2 record were American Samoa's Car-

See LIZAMA on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Luther Lizama, seen here getting ready to serve during a local tournament early this year at the AMP tennis courts, made it to the semifinals of the ITF Oceania Plate 2012 held in Fiji.

4 get Golden Boot awards in futsal league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Organizers of the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League are handing out Golden Boot awards to four players in a brief ceremony tonight at 7:30pm at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Topping the list of Golden Boot awardees is Wild Bill's striker Jack Thoensaket, who scored the most goals in the entire league, earning 38. The Wild Bill's forward led his team to a perfect 8-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the double-round robin men's league and averaged about five goals per game.

Other Golden Boot winners are women's league's Irish Pagarao of Shirley's Coffee Shop, boys U18's Tanapon Unsa of Astig Futsal and boys U14's John Taisacan of IT&E. Pagarao collected 20 goals in eight games with Shirley's, averaging two goals in every match, while Unsa had the second most goals in the league with his 37. Taisacan still led the boys U14 division with his 19 goals despite missing a couple of games in the first half of the league.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Wild Bill's Jack Thoensaket, center, is up against Godfather's Chris Nelson, left, and Dale Roberts during their game in the SSS futsal league last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

Meanwhile, league organizers will also present trophies to the division champions and Fair Play awardees.

The Greg Borja-captained Wild Bill's will get tonight's men's championship trophy, while Shirley's will have the women's award. Astig Futsal and IT&E will take the boys

See 4 GET on Page 30

CFL continues training for exhibition games

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Despite of the uncooperative weather, the Commonwealth Football League is still on track with its preparation for a three-game series against the Philippine Punishers and a select group from Guam.

"Rain has caused some headaches, but we have been moving forward nonetheless. We are planning to vamp up fundraising efforts in the coming weeks and still encourage anyone else interested in coming out and playing to come by our practice sessions and check us out," said John Blanco.

The team holds practices starting at 5pm every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Airport field.

They are still accepting quarterbacks, as well as a number of other positions. Many play-

See CFL on Page 30

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Commonwealth Football League players perform a drill during a training session at the Airport field last week.